ARMATA:

A FRAGMENT.

. . . . . εἰυμοισιν ὁμοια.

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INTRODUCTION.

When Galilæo discovered the phases of Venus through his telescope, he was cast into prison by the tribunal of the Inquisition.—He was cast into prison, as Milton in his Areopagitica has well described it, only for differing in astronomy from the Franciscan and Dominican monks.—Imperfect as the state of science was in the age of that great philosopher, it was nevertheless believed to be at its fullest maturity, and it has always been so considered, from Noah's flood to the present hour: the pride of man will scarcely enable him to accept the most manifest evidence of his senses, when brought into collision with the most manifest errors which time has sanctioned; and until ignorance shall be fairly pushed from her stool by the main force of truth, she will continue to sit staring like

an idiot, worshipping the shapeless phantoms of her own blind creation. This is so universally true, that even in this æra of comparative light, I expect, *for a season at least*, to find but little credit for my discovery of a New Land, because I cannot lay down its position on any accredited map; geographers having decided and certainly *almost* supported by the fact, that we know as perfectly every spot of *considerable magnitude* upon the earth, as I can now see the dots over the i's whilst I am writing. When on my return therefore to England, I first mentioned my discovery of a New Island, connected too with continents of an immense extent, I was immediately asked, in a mixed tone of confidence and derision, in what latitudes and longitudes they were all placed?—If I had answered at once, without preface or explanation, that they were in *no* latitudes or longitudes, being as I conceived no parts of the earth's surface, I admit that I might have been fairly set down as a lunatic or an impostor, because truth, when it breaks in too suddenly, confounds

founds the understanding, as vision is overpowered by a sudden burst of light. I thought it best therefore for the moment to practise an evasion, and answered, as indeed the truth was, that I had been obliged to commit myself to the waves from a sinking vessel; that there being more brass than wood on my quadrant, I could not venture to use it as a raft to save me; and that if I had hung my time-piece round my neck, I should from its weight have only discovered the longitude of the bottom. Well, then, said a profound philosopher, waving for the present all localities, let us know something at least of this famous Terra Incognita.—No, Sir, I replied, you will soon, I believe, be looking for it through your telescope. I resolved, in short, to shut myself up in silence until I addressed myself, as I now do, to the whole public of this great country, and through that public to the whole civilized world.

CHAPTER I.

In which the Author gives an Account of his outward Voyage and Shipwreck.

I SAILED from New York on the 6th of September, 1814, in the good ship Columbia, which never returned to any part of the United States, nor, until this publication, was ever heard of in any kingdom of the world. We were bound to China by the way of New South Wales, and as our voyage for nearly three months was prosperous and without unusual accident, I pass it by altogether.—On the 10th of February a storm arose, which soon increasing to a hurricane, accompanied with the most tremendous thunder and lightning, our ship, by the pressure of the one and the stroke of the other, became in a few hours an unmanageable wreck, her rudder being torn away, and her masts levelled with the decks. For nearly a month from that period a journal would be dismal

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and uninteresting, as we drifted with every change of wind or current over a trackless ocean; except that, astronomy having been rather a passion than a study from my earliest youth, I carefully noted every day at noon, by my quadrant and time-piece, our forlorn position; a precaution which I shall always consider as the most fortunate circumstance of my life. The particulars, however, are omitted: a seaman's log-book would, I suppose, have but an indifferent sale in Bond-street.

On the 16th of March, after full day had risen upon us, we found ourselves as it were overtaken by a second night.—The sea was convulsed into whirlpools all around us, by the obstruction of innumerable rocks, and we were soon afterwards hurried on by a current, in no way resembling any which navigators have recorded. We felt its influence under the shadow of a dark cloud, between two tremendous precipices overhanging and seemingly almost closing up the entrance which received us. Its

impetuosity was three times greater, at the least, than even the Rapids above the American Niagara, so that nothing but its almost incredible smoothness could have prevented our ship, though of five hundred tons burthen, from being swept by it under water, as our velocity could not be less, at the lowest computation, than twenty-five or rather thirty miles an hour. The stream appeared evidently to owe its rapidity to compression, though not wholly to the compression of land, its boundary on one side, if boundary it ought to be called, appearing rather like Chaos and Old Night; and what was most striking and extraordinary, we could see from the deck, not above two ships' length from us, another current running with equal force in the opposite direction, but separated from our's by pointed rocks, which appeared all along above the surface, with breakers dashing over them. Neither of the channels, as far as my eye could estimate their extent, were above fifty yards wide, nor at a greater distance from each other, and they were so even in their directions, that we

we went forward like an arrow from a bow, without the smallest deviation towards the rocks on one side, or the dreary obscurity on the other.

In this manner we were carried on, without the smallest traceable variation, till the 18th of June, a period of three months and two days, in which time, if my above-stated calculation of our progress be any thing like correct, and I am sure I do not over-rate it, we must have gone straight onward above seventy thousand miles, a space nearly three times the circumference of the earth. On the evening of that day which was to become memorable by the triumphant termination of the immortal battle of Waterloo, and which on my account also, though without any merit of mine, will be a new æra in the history of the world, we found ourselves suddenly emerging into a wide sea as smooth as glass—the heavens above twinkling with stars, some of which I had never seen before, and some of our own constellations, which were visible, shone out with increased lustre, though

still not subtending any angle to the naked sight, while others of our hemisphere appeared more distant, and some I missed altogether; but the moon, full orbed, was by far the most striking object, appearing much larger than with us, and her light, though borrowed, proportionally resplendent.

I shall not attempt to describe my astonishment at this sublime and hitherto super-human spectacle, because having been in all latitudes, and being, as I have already said, familiar with astronomy in its abstrusest branches, I was now fully convinced, not only that I was in no part of the world ever visited before, but that there was something else belonging to the world itself never even known or imagined. I am well aware that the figure and extent of our planet can neither be denied nor doubted; the moon, whilst I am writing, is just touching the sun's vertical disk within a second of calculated time, and moving onward to predicted eclipse; and in my voyage homewards, I saw her at the

the foretold moment wading into the earth's shadow, and at last totally obscured.—The revolutions round our axis and in our orbit mock in their precision the most celebrated inventions by which the astonishing art of man has contrived to measure even their shortest periods; and as the fixed stars, from wherever seen upon our earth, must be uniformly visible in the same positions and magnitudes, I could account, *at the moment*, in no other way for the position of the ocean in which I now found myself, than by supposing we had a ring like Saturn, which, by reason of our atmosphere, could not be seen at such an immense distance, and which was accessible only by a channel so narrow and so guarded by surrounding rocks and whirlpools, that even the vagrancy of modern navigators had never before fallen in with it, they having always hitherto been sent back, like other vagrants, to their original settlements. An unsurmountable objection, however, after a little attention, soon opposed itself to the theory of this sea being on such a ring; because, though from

from its distance it might not be visible through our atmosphere, yet, as it must occasionally intercept the sun's body in the earth's diurnal revolutions, its existence must always have been palpable.—The phenomenon therefore may, perhaps, be better accounted for, by supposing that the channel I had passed connected our earth and its counterpart which had just received me, like the chain of a double-headed shot, both of which might revolve around the sun together, and the moon around both, the interjacent channel revolving along with them.—There is nothing in this hypothesis at all inconsistent with the Newtonian system, which, standing upon the basis of mathematical truth, cannot be shaken in the mind of any reasonable being; but this channel may exist in perfect harmony with it; indeed it is no more inconsistent with the round figure of the earth to have such an appendage protruded from it, than it is unnatural for cows and horses, or other round animals, to have tails; or, to come closer to the subject, than that comets should have them, which are

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now believed to be opaque bodies like our own; but the best way after all, out of these and all other difficulties, is to hark back to the fact.—I am not in the least anxious to be the author of any new theory of the earth, nor to rival the justly celebrated Herschel in the discovery of other worlds, but I am conscious of my own integrity, and cannot doubt the evidence of my senses.—If this sea, therefore, and the country whose shores it washes beyond it, and which I afterwards visited, can be considered as part of our earth, let them, in God's name, be so considered—and if they cannot, then let philosophy and fancy go each their own way to find places for them: I shall stand perfectly neuter in the controversy.—It is enough for me that I possess the celestial observations taken as we entered the jaws of the current, and as we escaped from its dominion; these fortunate precautions enabled me to return to England, and could at pleasure lead me back again: but the discovery no man can expect from me without a corresponding compensation.—If ten thousand

pounds

pounds were given to Harrison for a time-piece not now in use, being long ago left in the shade by the still advancing light of British genius, and which after all was only tried in a voyage to Barbadoes—what reward may not honestly be demanded for leading the way to regions never heard of, nor conceived in the most romantic fancy, placed for ages beyond mortal ken, and opening, as the reader will see hereafter, to the discovery of a nation as highly civilized as our own, though differing from it almost throughout in all the distinguishing characteristics of mankind? I am well aware, however, that until my veracity shall be established by the Board of Admiralty, doubts may remain in the minds of some as to the authority of this history; yet, as far as it has advanced hitherto, there is surely nothing in the least incredible.—Even thirty years ago, a man would not have received more immediate credit who had proposed to produce, at his pleasure and at any distances, the explosions of celestial fire; or to rise above the clouds, and pass the channel

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which divides us from the Continent, in a globe of oiled silk; or who should have staked a large sum to rival even British navigation, by impelling a vessel with condensed steam against the winds and tides.—As little would any man have then ventured into a coal-pit, upon the trust that the same means employed as a hydraulic engine would clear it of the torrents rushing in every direction through the bowels of the earth; and least of all, that he could safely contend there against the most mortal elements of the subterranean world, by having the magic lantern of Davy by his side.

But before I leave for ever this imaginary obstacle to the reception of my adventures, it may be as well to give a decisive answer at once to sceptical readers of every description, upon reasons more within general reach than the principles of philosophy or mathematics. It is not known to the multitude that the earth is held in her place by the attraction of the sun, but all the world knows that every man is attracted by his

his own interests.—If I had written a romance and not a real history, I must be a lunatic not to blazon it in the largest characters even in the title-page of my work.—No human stupidity or folly ever failed so far in the composition of a novel as to defeat its popularity to the extent of at least two editions, which the circulating libraries of themselves take off, without the sale of a single volume to the collectors of books; whereas no human learning or wisdom employed upon realities can now-a-days look much farther than to an indemnity for the paper and the types.—High reputation, indeed, (a rare phenomenon!) with the aids of hot-pressed foolscap, a broad margin and expensive engravings, may force a passage for history through the libraries of the great, but *Novels* alone are the books of universal sale.—The only actual historians are the Editors of Newspapers, and bankruptcy would soon overtake even their most favoured proprietors, if they were fettered in their columns by truth. This most useful class of men are therefore shamefully calumniated for their occasional

occasional deviations from it.—Printing, in a free country, is surely a lawful trade; and when a man opens a shop, he must of course fill it with such wares as are saleable.—He is not to *set* the fashions, but to maintain his family by *following* them. The road therefore was plain before me. The discovery of new lands had often been made the vehicle of romance or satire—witness the voyages of Panurge, Gulliver, and Sinbad the Sailor; nor would the resort to such a fiction have been plagiary when the objects were so different, as mine will be found to be.—The foreign voyage or travel is in these cases only as the bolus, in which a medicine for the mind is to be administered; and an author could no more be considered even as an imitator by resorting to a romance, though so familiar, than Dr. James's patent could have been set aside for the invention of his celebrated powders, if his specification had directed them to be swallowed in the common wafers of the shop: what possible motive, then, could I have had for imposing upon the public an invention as a reality,

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since it could operate only against myself? Perhaps therefore, in a few years hence, when packets are continually passing and repassing between the twin worlds, and when the gazettes and pamphlets of the country I am about to describe are lying upon our tables, though this volume must then cease to be interesting, its author may be remembered, and his memory respected.

The placid ocean on which we were now launched continued but a short time pacific. We were soon overtaken by a second storm, too like the former we had encountered, the shock of which, from the shattered condition of our vessel, it was impossible to sustain. I shall not weary the reader, according to custom, with any detailed account of our shipwreck.—If the sunken rock we struck upon had been within the reach of any one who shall read this history, I should have pointed out its position, but that not being the case, at least for the present, and as there can be neither improvement nor delight in

in dwelling on the agonies of despair and death, I purposely pass over every circumstance which occurred from the striking of the vessel until I jumped into the sea and drifted upon a plank within a short distance of the shore. From that time I became insensible, and can therefore give no account of the almost miraculous manner in which I must have been saved, as not another soul out of one hundred and forty-eight, of which our crew consisted, were ever seen again, except floating lifeless amidst the waves or dashing against the rocks of a lofty and dangerous coast.

CHAPTER II.

In which the Author relates his extraordinary and unexpected Reception.

On recovering my senses, I found myself stretched nearly naked upon a rock, with the spray of the sea dashing over me, surrounded by an immense number of people whose speech was utterly unknown to me, a circumstance which added to my alarm, because my astronomical theorems being altogether obliterated through terror, and being well acquainted with the languages of most civilized nations, I concluded I had been cast amongst a savage people, from whom I could expect neither sympathy nor protection.—How then shall I attempt to describe my sensations upon seeing a person for whom every body made way upon his approach—whose dignified appearance marked him to be of a superior order to the rest, and who, upon hearing my bitter lamentations, addressed

addressed me in the purest English, saying in accents the sweetest and most impressive, "Unhappy stranger, fear nothing!—The benevolence of God extends over all his works, however divided for mysterious causes in the abyss of infinite space.—Even in this unknown and distant world He has preserved a man of your own country to comfort and protect you." However impatient the reader must naturally be that I should advance without digression in a narrative so very extraordinary, yet I must pause here for a moment. It is the office of history not only to amuse but to instruct; to make men not only wiser, but better—to reconcile them to their various conditions, however clouded or disastrous—to impress them with a constant sense of the Divine Providence and presence—or, to describe it by almost a word in the sublime language of our great poet,

"To justify the ways of God to men."

The first reflection, therefore, which the reader ought to make upon this extraordinary

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deliverance from death, and the sudden transition from absolute despair to comfort and happiness, is already made for him in the encouraging language of my protector; and I am persuaded, besides, that no person, however unfortunate, can look back upon his own life, without having to remember with gratitude and devotion many singular and auspicious conjunctures which no skill or merit of his own could have contrived; with many escapes from the natural consequences of his own misconduct, or from accidents which cross us even in our most guarded and virtuous paths; and who has not felt, in the changes from sickness to health, from pain to pleasure, from danger to security, and from depression to joy and exultation, a fuller and a higher satisfaction (independently of the uses of such reverses) than could have arisen from the uninterrupted continuance of the most prosperous condition.

As there must be light and shade in every picture, so there must be perpetual changes to make

make human life delightful. Nothing must stand still: the sea would be a putrid mass if it were not vexed by its tides, which, even with the moon to raise them, would languish in their course, if not whirled round and round those tortuous promontories which are foolishly considered to be the remnants of a ruined world. —Marks, as they undoubtedly are, of many unknown revolutions; the earth probably never was nor ever can be more perfect than it is.— It would have been a tame and tiresome habitation if it had been as smooth as the globes with which we describe our stations on its surface. Its unfathomable and pathless oceans—its vast lakes cast up by volcanic fire, and its tremendous mountains contending with the clouds, are not only sources of the most picturesque and majestic beauties, but lift up the mind to the sublime contemplation of the God who gave them birth.

CHAPTER III.

In which the Author became convinced that he was no longer upon the Earth.

HAVING been removed from the shore in a kind of vehicle most admirably constructed for the purpose, and laid upon a couch, which my generous protector had prepared for me, the most intense curiosity now succeeded to the pain and horror which had oppressed me, and I entreated him to relate the miraculous events which could alone have brought us together, desiring him, however, in the first place, to relieve those anxieties which the sight of a person from England could not but have excited.—"Alas!" said my protector, with great emotion, "I have no anxieties connected with England, nor with the world of which it is a part.—My parents were cast upon this shore when I was an infant of only three years old; they were, as I have learned from my father, in the course of a voyage to the East

East Indies: but the vessel having been separated from the rest of the fleet in a dreadful tempest, and having, like your own, from the loss of her masts and rudder, been long the sport of distracting winds and currents, she was wrecked at last, with the whole of her crew—my father and mother, and five others only excepted, all of whom have since been called away to a better world. As for myself, my death, from the helplessness of infancy, must have been inevitable, but for a dog (long since dead) which my father had brought with him from the Labrador coast, who followed me it seems amongst the breakers when the ship overset, and never quitted me until he brought me to the shore. Alas! poor ———*, how much is the short span of your wise and faithful species to be lamented!

" From my parents I learned the English language, but little or nothing of England itself or of its history; as both of them died before I was of an age to take any interest in such sub-

* The name of this famous dog I have forgotten.

jects; and those who were saved with us, were not only obscure and ignorant persons, but were soon scattered abroad, according to their accidental fortunes, in an unknown land, and by the course of nature must long since have been in their graves."

"But *your own* history," I said, "must be infinitely interesting." "To a stranger, like yourself," answered my kind protector, "cast not only upon a foreign shore, but upon a new and unheard of world, any account of the most illustrious individual, much more of myself, would be tiresome and uninstructive. Your courtesy only can ask for it now. My name is Morven—my family most ancient and respectable in Scotland, though not noble—that is all I have now to say concerning myself.—It is enough for the present, that I have arrived at such a rank and station as to afford you the means of seeing to the greatest advantage a country which, much as my parents used constantly to exalt my own in my infant fancy, cannot, I think, be inferior to it. Though placed as it were a kind of exile, in a remote margin

margin of this world,—small in its compass,—in its climate disappointing from its vicissitudes,—surrounded by seas not often favourable to navigation, and only emerging from the darkness of barbarism in a late period of nations, it soon towered above them all, and has for a long season been the day-star of our planet.—It seems, indeed, as if the Divine Providence had chosen it as the instrument of its benevolent purpose, to enlighten by an almost insensible progression the distant and divided families of mankind, to hold up to them the sacred lamp of religious and moral truth, to harmonise them by the example of mild and liberal institutions, and to controul the disturbers of the social world with an unparalleled arm of strength:—may she always remember that this mighty dominion is a trust—that her work is not yet finished—and that if she deserts or slumbers upon her post, she will be relieved and punished!"

I availed myself of the pause which seemed to finish his preface to what he evidently considered

sidered as a distinct world from our own, by asking his father's opinion upon that momentous subject, as I could not compose my mind to attend to any thing until I was satisfied as to my real situation. "My father," answered my friend, "undoubtedly considered that he was cast forth and for ever from the earth. He used often to say so, but his reasons I can only give you from his Journal, which I have carefully preserved, being too young myself to comprehend them. The book is in this very chamber, and I can turn in a moment to that remarkable part of it." Having besought him to do so, he put the volume into my hand, where, after describing in the English language the extraordinary channel nearly as I have already described it, I found the following short sentence quite conclusive of an opinion which but too clearly confirmed my own.

"*When I consider the unexampled rapidity of the current, with its dismal chaotic boundary, and that we were involved in it for almost three months,*

months, emerging at once into a sea where the heavens above presented new stars, and those of our own in different magnitudes and positions than any they could be seen in from either of our hemispheres, I am convinced, beyond a doubt, that I am no longer upon the earth, but on what I might best describe as a twin brother with it, bound together by this extraordinary channel, as a kind of umbilical chord, in the capacious womb of nature, but which, instead of being separated in the birth, became a new and permanent substance in her mysterious course."

The reader will no doubt observe, that this theory exactly corresponds with my own, though more fancifully expressed than by my vulgar simile of a double-headed shot, and I have little doubt that this new and interesting planet will, in all our almanacks, be styled Gemini hereafter, though it is called Deucalia by its inhabitants.

I cannot describe my feelings upon this awful con-

confirmation of such a tremendous exile, and entreated to be informed whether any thing appeared in the Journal that seemed to favour an opinion, that the earth might be regained by pursuing the contrary course. "Undoubtedly," said my friend, and he turned in a few moments to the following passage:

"*The equal rapidity of the two contrary currents, and the impenetrable division between them, convinces me that a vessel in the mouth of the other, at the point from which we emerged from the one we had been involved in, would re-conduct us to the earth; but having taken no precautions to ascertain its position, guarded besides by natural obstacles of the most dangerous and perplexing character, I can indulge no hope of either re-visiting our world myself, or of making it a rational object of future discovery.*"

I leaped with joy when I had finished this sentence, notwithstanding its disheartening conclusion, and said to my protector, "You may now

now go on with your history; I burn with impatience to hear it—I have no fears for the future—your father's apprehensions were well founded, but they have no application to me. He had not employed the means without which no seaman, even in our own seas, could ever return to his country; but fortunately I was more provident and skilful—I know within a gun-shot where the current began and ended, and could find out both to-morrow; but the time is not yet arrived for it.—My adventure is too important to be thrown away, and indeed if my passage back again were as short as from England to France, I should with the utmost reluctance undertake it, as it might separate me for ever from so kind and generous a friend—Proceed then with the fullest account of the world that has received me—I am all attention."

"Such a narrative," said the friendly Morven, "even if I were qualified to enter upon it, would be of no value to the inhabitant of another world; it could only gratify a curiosity which your mind

mind is not sufficiently at rest to enjoy.—When you have acquired the language of this country, it will then be as open to you as to myself, and the best service I can now render you, is to direct your course; lest, after burying yourself beneath the thousands of volumes which under my roof will be at your command, hereafter you might find yourself but little wiser than when you began. Useful history lies within a narrow compass, and all I shall attempt for the present will be to give you such a bird's-eye view of the renowned and powerful Island of ARMATA, as will best enable you to pursue your own inquiries.—When you have the structure faithfully delineated, you will find your own way through its various apartments, and examine their contents as your particular taste and judgment may direct you."

I could not help here interrupting my friend, much as impatience was on the stretch, by remarking that the name of Armata was most appropriate, having been just wrecked in full sight

sight of an immense naval arsenal, where ships of the largest classes were constructing, surrounded again by a mole crowded with a most formidable navy, whilst on the sloping banks of the fortress, by which the whole was encompassed and guarded, large bodies of troops, apparently in the highest state of discipline, were encamped and hutted. The name of Armata, I therefore repeated, was most appropriate. "And why on that account?" said my friend, plainly not understanding me; a question which brought back at once to my recollection, that Rome could not possibly have been the godmother of this Island, her language of course being utterly unknown: but such is the magic power of association, even when reason has dissolved the spell.

"The name of Armata," he continued, "has nothing at all to do with forces naval or military, but is supposed to have arisen from the extraordinary charms of our women; Armata being, in the fabulous mythologies of our

remote

remote ages, the deity representing and presiding over female beauty." Here, as the reader will find in the sequel, the appropriation was indeed most perfect; but it must be left to every reader, according to his own fancy, to form an idea of the Armatian women; because not having any distinct characters of form or countenance, like those of France, or Spain, or Italy, or Greece, or Circassia, but embracing them all in their delightful varieties, the poet must drop his pen, and the painter his pencil:—but I must no longer delay your attention the history you ask for.*

* On my return to England, and whilst I was writing these pages, I was very much surprized to observe in my pocket edition of Johnson's Spelling Dictionary, that our Venus also went by the name of Armata. I had never heard it before, and only found it in an index to this little volume. It passes all understanding how such a coincidence should have arisen.

CHAPTER IV.

In which Morven begins his Account of the Island of Armata.

"As there can be little doubt that this planet, like our own, was peopled from two human beings, and as from what remains of my father's writings, they seem strongly to resemble each other in all the characteristics of the species, there is probably a great similarity in their remote histories.—Primitive man is nearly the same every where, except as accidental circumstances have had their influence.—In climates soft and enervating, the inhabitants have often been for ages stationary, and the robuster nations have been their conquerors. With us, indeed, they have repeatedly changed the face of things —multitudes expelling multitudes, like the waves of the sea, sweeping away yet mixing with one another, but still preserving throughout all their changes the distinct and original character of one people. The governments of mankind in

the first ages must of course have been patriarchal, their numbers being small, and few occasions for contention in an unpeopled world; but, in process of time, when tribes, or rather large masses came to be in perpetual motion towards other countries, they often found them pre-occupied; and then, as the sparks fly upwards, the æra commenced of strife and warfare. This new state of a wandering population gave a corresponding character to their societies, which, though barbarous, or at least rude, in the outset, became the accidental source in this favoured island of the most powerful dominion, and the perfection of civil wisdom. This may appear to be carrying you farther back than any human annals need be traced upwards, but the characters and destinies of nations are so often dependent upon one another, that it is difficult, if not impossible to give an enlightened or useful view of them, without almost an abridged history of a world; and however the ancient parts may appear insignificant from having no visible bearings upon their present conditions, they

they are sometimes, if not always, the sources of the varieties which distinguish them.

" It is on this account only that I must lead you by paths now neglected and almost forgotten, into the great road to the eventful period which embraces you as one of ourselves.

" The policy forced upon those numerous nations, as they were in their turns invaders or driven onwards by successive myriads, was a mixture of military command and civil magistracy. With the sword continually in their hands, the service of it became the tenure of their possessions, and in a descending line from their leaders to the undistinguished multitude, they were held together by an indissoluble bond of union, giving law and protection to one another.

" It must be admitted that the governments I have been describing had a strong tendency towards arbitrary monarchies, an opinion con-

firmed by their histories; because, when one or more superior dominions had been established by conquest, the lesser ones surrounding them having no common interest to unite them, nor any support from the great bodies of their people, were often overpowered and extinguished: the most popular captains of fierce adventurers becoming in another age the sovereigns of nations.

"One of those invaders once swayed by force and terror the sceptre of Armata; but conquest and the tyrannical abuse of it may lay the foundation of a system of liberty which no courage could have conquered nor human wisdom have contrived.—Perhaps in this short sentence you have a faithful though as yet an obscure account of the origin of that singular constitution which has raised Armata to the highest pinnacle of fame and glory. Great and invulnerable as she now is, she was once subdued, and all the monuments of her ancient wisdom overthrown: but the dominion of one man,

man, however gifted or fortunate, is sure to pass away when it tramples upon the principles that gave it birth.—The successful invader confounding his free and fierce companions with the nation they had conquered, the oppressors soon became numbered with the oppressed, and after the reigns of but a few of his descendants, the successor to his arbitrary dominion was forced to submit to the establishment of freedom demanded in arms by the conquerors and the conquered now forming an unanimous and indignant people.

"The extraordinary feature of this singular revolution was, that a nation in arms against its sovereign and reducing him to terms of submission, had the discretion to know exactly what to demand, and, by demanding nothing more, to secure the privileges it had obtained.—The ordinary insurrections of mankind against oppression have generally been only convulsive paroxysms of tumult and disorder, more destructive than the tyranny overthrown, and often ending in worse;

because civil societies cannot be suddenly new-modelled with safety.—Their improvements, to be permanent, must be almost insensible, and growing out of the original systems, however imperfect they may have been.

" The rude forefathers of this people had fortunately not then arrived at that state of political science which might perhaps have tempted them to a premature change of their government upon abstract principles—they looked only to their actual grievances.—They did not seek to abrogate the system which was the root of their ancient laws and institutions, but only to beat down usurpations, and to remedy defects.—They seem indeed to have discovered that there is a magnet in the civil as in the natural world to direct our course, though the latter was for ages afterwards unknown. The magnet of the civil world is a Representative Government, and at this auspicious period attracted like the natural one by iron, became fixed and immutable from the sword.

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" The consummate wisdom of those earliest reformers appears further in the public councils which they preserved.—From the most ancient times the people might be said to have had a protecting council in the government, but its jurisdiction was overborne.—They had only therefore to guard against the recurrence of that abuse, and as the power over the public purse had been the most destructive engine of their arbitrary sovereigns, they retained in their own hands by the most positive charters that palladium of independence, re-enacting them upon every invasion, aiming at nothing new, but securing what they had acquired.

" To have gone farther in improvement, *at that period*, would not only have been useless, but mischievous, even if the bulk of the people could have redeemed themselves by force from many intermediate oppressors; because, having most of all to fear from the power of their monarchs, the privileges of their superiors were indispensable supports; invested for many ages

with the magistracies of the country, powerful in themselves from rank and property, having a common interest with the whole nation, *and no temptations being then in existence to seduce them from the discharge of their duties*, they were the most formidable opponents of the prerogatives that were to be balanced; and it was therefore the most unquestionable policy to enlarge and confirm their authority, instead of endeavouring to controul a long established and too powerful a dominion by an untried force.

" From this period the principles of civil freedom struck deep root in Armata, deeper perhaps from the weight by which they continued to be pressed, the prerogatives of their princes being still formidable and frequently abused.—Perhaps the law which governs the system of the universe may be the grand type and example of human governments—the immense power of the sun, though the fountain of light and life, would in its excess be fatal; the planets, therefore, though they yield to its fostering attraction in

in their unceasing and impetuous revolutions, are repelled from it by a kind of instinctive terror; since, if the sun could by its influence detach them from their force centrifugal, they would be absorbed with the swiftness of lightning into the centre, and, like the fly allured by the light of the taper, be instantly consumed.

" The powers given to executive governments for great national purposes, like those given to the sun, ought to be extensive, nor can they be dangerous if they are *sufficiently balanced*, and that balance preserved upon the very principle of *centrifugal* force; because the existence of a strong government, and the possibility of its misconduct, are the strongest securities of freedom. Every page of the history of Armata illustrates this important truth; since, in the same proportion that executive power has at different periods become the objects of salutary jealousy, popular privileges have been uniformly strengthened from the abuses, and when at last a grand and glorious struggle to put an

end

end to them for ever was crowned with the justest and most triumphant success, constitutional fear, which had for ages watched over and subdued them, unhappily fell asleep—*the centrifugal force was lost;*—and power, stripped of its terrors, but invested with the means of *dazzling and corrupting*, soon began to undermine a system of government which the most formidable prerogatives had for ages been unable to destroy.

" The progress of this renowned people, from the period of their earliest struggles for liberty, to the final and, I trust, immortal consummation of their political constitution, was slow and eventful, but perhaps on that account the more secure: the safest road from an unsettled government, of any description, to one that is more perfect, being through those almost imperceptible changes by which the character and circumstances of a nation are changed. The Armatians, from their insular situation and enterprizing genius, were amongst the earliest

earliest though not the first explorers of distant and unknown countries; but their humanity and wisdom secured the advantages which the vices and follies of the original discoverers had cast away, and the dominion over new worlds (if I may so express myself) became their own. Their national government could not but be soon affected by this illustrious career; a commerce encircling our globe with riches in her train, advancing hand in hand with learning and science, which other causes were reviving, opposed by a silent and progressive force more efficacious than the sudden shock of a revolution, the oppressive pretensions of her nobles, and the firmest prerogatives of her kings,—to describe this momentous change in a word—the Armatians became a PEOPLE.

" It would be to you most uninteresting, and to me equally painful, to relate the conflicts of those antagonist powers for more than a hundred years, until the ancient monarchy and aristocracy, which for ages had supported each other, fell

fell to the ground in one ruin together; but as a river swoln and impetuous amidst the tempest, bursting beyond its banks and leaving no trace of its ancient channel, often returns to it, having only fructified the country it overflowed, so the Armatians soon came back again to the venerable but improved constitution of their fathers; they did spontaneous homage to their exiled monarch, and afterwards to his infatuated successor, till seeing no security in the mild and generous experiment of Restoration, they were driven at last to seek their safety through a revolution, but such a one as perhaps will to the end of time continue to be unexampled—accomplished without blood—cutting off only the cankered branches, but preserving all the others to hold their places in the ancient tree of their liberties: and as the broad leaf and consummate flower still preserve the distinct characters of the roots that nourish them, so the Armatians, even when principalities and powers were at their feet, never sought to depart from their original cast.

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" The ordinary occurrences of history producing no important changes, I have uniformly passed them over, and I am arrived therefore at a period within living memory, which will require your utmost attention.

CHAP-

CHAPTER V.

In which Morven continues his account of the Island of Armata.

"THIS highly favoured island now sat without a rival on this proud promontory in the centre of all the waters of this earth, with her mighty wings outspread to such a distance, that with your limited ideas of its numerous nations, it is impossible you should comprehend.— She was balanced upon her imperial throne by the equally vast and seemingly boundless continents on either side, bending alike beneath her sceptre, and pouring into her lap all that varieties of climate or the various characters of mankind could produce, whilst the interjacent ocean was bespangled with islands, which seem to be posted by nature as the watch-towers of her dominion, and the havens of her fleets.—Her fortune was equal to her virtues, and, in the justice of God, might be the fruit of it; since as the globe had expanded

expanded under her discoveries, she had touched it throughout as with a magic wand; the wilderness becoming the abodes of civilized man, adding new millions to her sovereignty, compared with which she was herself only like the seed falling upon the soil, the parent of the forest that enriches and adorns it.—She felt no wants, because she was the mother of plenty; and the free gifts of her sons at a distance, returned to them tenfold in the round of a fructifying commerce, made her look but to little support from her children at home.—To drop all metaphor, she was an *untaxed* country; except to that wholesome extent which wise policy should dictate to every government, by making the property of the subject depend in some measure upon the security of the state.

"The prosperity which then exalted her, after all her dangerous divisions had been swept away by an auspicious renovation of her constitution, was unexampled, and although she has been thought by some to have risen much higher

higher afterwards amidst a splendid career of national glory; yet she then perhaps touched her meridian height, not having at that time embarked in an habitual system of expenditure, beyond the golden medium just adverted to, her debt being then no larger than to create a wide spread interest to support the state, but leaving what might be fairly termed the full fruits of industry and talents, subject to no tormenting visitations of a prodigal government, which can in the end have no escape from bankruptcy but by rendering its subjects bankrupt.—In the first condition of a nation, the people may be compared to the crew of a well manned vessel in a prosperous voyage, called upon for no exertions but to forward her in her course: the second may be better likened to the toils and sufferings of a tempest, when the ship can only be kept even in doubtful safety, by incessant pumping, when all hopes of advantage are extinguished, and the only principle of obedience is the preservation of life.

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"Unhappily for Armata, the lust of dominion, or rather of revenue, beyond the usefulness or even the capacity of enjoyment, ensnared her into a contest with a great and growing people, to obtain by force what duty and affection had spontaneously held out to her.

"I pointed out metaphorically to your view two vast continents under her imperial wings: one of them, to which, looking southward, her right extended, she had planted and peopled. The inhabitants of Hesperia were her own children, worshipping with the same rites the God of their common fathers, speaking the same language, following in the track of the same laws and customs which fashion and characterise a people.—Armata, in short, ruled by the freest consent the whole of this vast country, appointed without question all her magistrates, and enjoyed a monopoly of her commerce, not only in the exclusive import of her various productions into her own bosom, but in the monopolous return of all her own manufactures:

which, from the rapid progress of population throughout that immense region, was in itself an inexhaustible source of wealth, setting perfectly at nought the entire intercourse of our whole world besides.

" Shall I be then believed when I tell you that with *all this* Armata was not satisfied, but insisted that an useful, affectionate, and distant people should pay for the support of wars she had been foolishly involved in at the other extremity of our planet?—Can the human imagination extend farther to the belief, that even *this monstrous claim* was acceded to?—the children of a misguided parent desired only to know what she demanded, that they might have the grace of rendering it as a spontaneous grant, to be bestowed under the same forms of government and under the sanction of the very magistrates which she herself had created for the purpose.—Must I lastly trespass upon, or rather insult, your credulity, by telling you that even *this* offer was refused? Though revenue was the object,

object, the unlimited grant was rejected, and the revenue after all given up to enforce a nominal demand.—Many eloquent and solemn protests of our most illustrious men of that time were opposed in vain to this insane project. The whole strength of Armata was put forth, and her armies invaded a country so much more extensive than her own, that when collected upon its adverse surface, they could scarcely hear the sound of one another's cannon.—Need I conclude by adding that they were all taken like so many birds in the net of the fowler, and the dominion of Armata, which before had stood upon a rock, was renounced by Hesperia for ever—at first in defiance—but at last, when the combat became manifestly hopeless, dissolved by mutual consent."

When my friend had finished this marvellous or rather incredible history, you will not, reader, be surprized that I interrupted him for a moment, much as I was alive to hear its continuation, by asking only one question. "How," I

said, " could it possibly happen, that with so celebrated a constitution as he himself had described, and when the people had obtained so complete a controul over the public councils, they should have suffered so unjust and ruinous a war to be so long persisted in, contrary to their most manifest interests, and in the face of the most enlightened opinions ?"

" The answer to your question," replied my friend, " involves one of the most curious and extraordinary changes that has ever taken place in the political history of any nation. In the earlier periods of that of Armata, though the sovereigns had more power, and the people's representatives were comparatively nothing in the balance, the Hesperian war could not have been carried on. The delegates of the people would have strenuously opposed it in every stage of its disastrous progress—the whole nation would have upheld them, and the government even, if not subdued, would have been overawed and checked in its impolitic course; but

but before this period, the ancient system of the government had been completely inverted; the popular council, though in theory scarcely entitled to that name or character, had for ages fulfilled all the practical purposes of the most perfect representation; because, having the same interests with the universal mass of population, and nothing then existing to seduce them from the discharge of their duties, it mattered not by whom they were elected; but the time was arrived when the right of election became a vital principle.—The crown was now possessed of a great revenue, which was rapidly increasing, and as the Commons had advanced in power and importance, it was thought convenient by its ministers to act no longer upon their own responsibility, even in the most ordinary details of business, but to take their constitutional opponents into pay and make them ministers in their stead; well knowing that they could not possibly oppose, nor even censure the measures which were their own.—Neither can it be matter of wonder that the

people at large, though wise to a proverb, should be the dupes of so artful a contrivance.—They had been long accustomed to regard every act of the executive power with the most jealous apprehension, and to consider the voice of their representatives who had never betrayed them as the Law and the Gospel.—When they saw, therefore, the crown upon this momentous occasion so humbly deferring to the wisdom, as it was called, of the national council; when its ministers were entirely behind the curtain, and every step that was taken was by the authority of their own servants, they threw up their caps into the air, and poured in addresses from every part of the island, offering their lives and fortunes in support of the glorious contest; gifts which unhappily no opportunity was left them to recal, the personal supporters of the war being knocked on the head, and the pockets of the rest completely emptied.—When the illusion was at length dissolved by disappointment and defeat, an universal hue and cry was raised against the whole system, set on foot by its loudest

loudest supporters; and the minister of that day, a most able statesman, though in that matter undoubtedly mistaken, and in private life one of the most agreeable and amiable of mankind, was attacked without measure or mercy.—He manfully stood his ground; and, I am persuaded, with a clear conscience maintained the policy and justice of his administration; but the most zealous of his adherents now seeing the clearest reasons for condemning him, though none whatever existed which had not been as manifest from the outset, and many more finding it impossible from business to be in their places to defend him, though they had nothing at all to do, he was compelled to retire; and in a few weeks afterwards a man would have been probably mobbed in the streets, or perhaps imprisoned as a lunatic, if he had been rash enough to assert that the whole nation had been otherwise than mad, and without a lucid interval for fourteen years together."

"And pray, Sir," I said, "has this system

continued ever since?"—"Not exactly," answered Morven, "but, if possible, worse; just as a dropsical patient fills in the proportion of what he drinks.—The subject is most interesting and important.—The English, from my father's account, must be the wisest of mankind, and, though the inhabitants of another world, their wisdom, through you, may direct us."

"Wisdom," I answered, "in the pure abstract, can hardly be brought to bear upon human conduct.—There must be some direct experience, or at least some analogy, to give it effect.—Upon this subject there is neither.—You might as well set yourself to consider what the inhabitants of the moon, which belongs alike to both of us, would probably think of your condition; or those of Jupiter, or Saturn, or of the seven stars that form the Pleïades, if they are inhabited, and if not, you must be handed on for an opinion to the planets which probably surround them, for England cannot possibly assist you in a case which has no reference to her own govern-

government, nor to any of her own concerns; but, go on, I am delighted with your discourse; only remember that history is a grave and momentous subject, and that wit and fancy belong to quite different departments."—I said this because my friend was remarkable for both, and whether he was in jest or in earnest it was not always very easy to know: but as I found him to be a man of unquestionable veracity, I was compelled to assent to his narrative, on his solemnly assuring me that he had departed in nothing from the truth.

CHAPTER VI.

In which Morven still continues his Account of the Island of Armata.

"THIS memorable æra in the history of Armata may perhaps be considered as almost the first in which her representative constitution exhibited any proofs of dangerous imperfection.—The crown (as I have said) was rapidly acquiring the administration of a great revenue, and a sufficient guard had not been placed upon its influence in the public councils, without which no forms of election, however free and extensive, can secure a wise and prudent administration; but the evil must manifestly be greater when the popular council, erected as the balance of a monarchical state, does not emanate from the people, but in its greater part from the crown which is to be balanced, and from a body of nobles, powerful from rank and property, who are to be balanced also; and who have besides a scale

a scale properly allotted to them, in which their great weight is judiciously deposited.—It must be obvious to the meanest capacity, that if those very powers which are thus to be balanced can create or materially influence the antagonist power which is to controul them, the constitution must at all events be theoretically imperfect.—I have already informed you why, for a long period, this imperfection had not been felt, and the degree of its operation, when it began to operate, and as it now exists, ought to be correctly and temperately stated; because, without a reverence for government, whatever defects may be discovered in it, a nation must be dissolved.

"You are not therefore to imagine that the portentous war I have described to you arose from a general and wicked prostitution of high station in those who had in a manner the choice of the popular council, nor from a vile corrupt sale of their voices by those who had been chosen, feeling at the time that they were devoting

voting their country to disastrous consequences —this I think has never happened, nor is likely to happen in Armata: because her people are so enlightened, her various classes are so happily blended with each other, and the interest in wise counsels is so universal, that a *clear* and general conviction of misgovernment would then and now have an irresistible effect upon the public councils however constituted; but the great evil is in cases of doubtful policy, which the worst measures in their beginnings often are: and he must be but little acquainted with the human mind, who does not know by what deceptious means, even very honest and intelligent men may be brought to view *questionable* subjects in the light that best corresponds with their interests and their wishes.

"On the very occasion before us it was not very difficult to conceal some facts, and to overstate others, more especially when the matter to be judged of was at an immense distance, and complicated in the details; some had not the

the capacity, nor many more the application to digest them, and even supposing the case to have been fairly stated, the rule from time to time to be applied to it was often beyond the reach of those who were to decide, and came for their decision adorned with gifts and graces to secure the most favourable reception.—The public effect also of the decision I have already explained to you.—It was no longer the act of a power for ages the object of jealous apprehension, but of those who for ages had faithfully controuled it, and the judgment of the people was surprized.

"The period of the delusion you have also heard.—The consequences of extreme misgovernment must be universally felt, and the discontents they produce are irresistible; but unfortunately they seldom arrive until the evil complained of is beyond redress. The crown is sure in the *dubious season* to command the popular council, and through them popular opinion, until errors become palpable and destructive, when

when the most over-ruling influence must give way.—This is the real and the only defect in the constitution of Armata; which, from its wisdom and the happiness it produces, casts into the deepest shade the most perfect institutions of mankind.—All the separate parts of it are excellent and well proportioned, if they were allowed to stand in their places, but government had now begun to be carried on by a conspiracy of powers which should balance and controul one another." "How much then," I eagerly said, "is it not to be lamented, that when such an evil was first discovered it was not *immediately* corrected!" "Your observation," answered my friend, "is far more important than perhaps you are aware of.—To have *then* corrected it, or even at many subsequent periods, could not in the nature of things have convulsed or even disturbed the balance of the different orders so vitally necessary for the security of all; but by having suffered the defect to continue for a long season, its consequences have also increased, and have produced so strong a feeling

feeling of irritation, that the most cautious reformation becomes, with every man of sound discretion, a matter which calls for the most impartial and even trembling consideration.—This observation is not, however, intended to convey an opinion that a safe and salutary amendment is impracticable. A surgeon often examines his patient with a trembling hand, when he is considering whether he shall attempt an operation; but when his judgment is satisfied, it trembles no longer.

"One mighty benefit, a well timed and judicious reformation, if it can be accomplished with safety, would *most certainly* produce.—The legislature would be more an object of respect and affection in the minds of the people, the highest security against a spirit of disaffection and revolt.—It is infinitely dangerous when bad men, who seek to promote revolution by exposing the defects of the public councils, can plead the truth, or even any thing approaching it, in their defence.—Positive law may protect a strum-

a strumpet when her reputation is invaded, but the appeal to it only serves to make her prostitution more notorious, and the libeller, when punished, an object of compassion.

" When any palpable imperfection exists in a government, it becomes the hotbed of sedition; and it is the more impolitic to suffer it to continue when its great leading principles, like those of Armata, are so perfect.—Where a tyranny indeed exists, or any government, however composed, whose interests are different from these of the people, no reformation can be hoped for with their consent, because they could not be reformed without the surrender of injurious powers which they would have a corrupt advantage in preserving; but in a country like this, that has opened her arms to receive you, where there is but one sentiment of public spirit and virtue pervading alike the public councils which from defective forms may require reformation, and those who seek to reform them, there can be no difference in opinion except

cept *in the consequences of any change*.—That part of the subject is too deep for my decision; yet I find it difficult to conceive how a representation embracing a larger proportion of a wise and moral people could have a greater tendency to produce insecurity, than when it emanates only from those whom the laws have directed to be balanced.—A few individuals might seek to extend their own powers at the expense of the liberties of the people, but the *people themselves* could surely have no interest in usurping a greater authority than was consistent with the equilibrium of a constitution which for centuries had been the just object of their national pride, and the admiration of a world it has enlightened.

"Attending to all these considerations, have you *now*," said Morven, "any difficulty in forming an opinion on this important subject, putting England wholly out of the question?"

"For the reasons I have already given you,"

I answered, "I can form no useful judgment in a case so new to me; but there is one principle so clear and so universal, that it must apply equally to all subjects, to the affairs of all countries, and even of all worlds. The first step towards public reformation of every description, is a firm combination against rash and violent men.—Very many of them (perhaps the bulk) are perfectly well intentioned, but not for all that the less dangerous to the cause they would support.—Some of them, indeed, one would think were in our world set on to take the lead by those who opposed any changes, that wise men might retire altogether from the pursuit. For my own part, I would not only submit to the imperfections of such an admirable constitution as you have described in Armata, but would consent to the continuance of the worst that can be imagined, rather than mix myself with ignorance, thrusting itself before the wisdom which should direct it, or with persons of desperate fortunes, whom no sound state of society could relieve; but such men, I think, could

could work no mischief, if rank and property stood honestly and manfully in their places.

"From your own account, however, it appears to me, upon the whole, to be a question which demands the most dispassionate consideration, because the consequences are far from being clear.—The principle of balance has been long *departed* from, and reciprocal jealousies between your Crown and your Commons have been laid asleep.—Prerogative (depending wholly upon influence) has exerted itself in nothing, and the whole executive government has been, *with its own consent*, carried on in your popular council.—*This* has bestowed upon it an entirely *new* character, and from the operation of other causes, its powers have no *actual* limitation, though theory defines and limits them.—How far, therefore, *under such circumstances*, it might be safe entirely to recast this great assembly, and to disturb a system, which without any new organization has in a manner created a new constitution, it is not for a stranger to pronounce.

On the one hand, I should be sorry to see the powers of your commons in the smallest degree diminished or struck at; but on the other, in proportion as they are transcendant, they should be, *as far as can be made safely practicable*, in the choice and under the controul of the great body of your people."

CHAP-

CHAPTER VII.

In which Morven still continues his Account of Armata, and points to the origin of a great Revolution.

"No country but Armata could have surmounted, as she did, so disastrous a conflict as the Hesperian war: but such is the energy of her extraordinary people, that after a short depression, she roused herself like a strong man after sleep, and stood again erect, to sustain the shock of events still more disastrous, which followed in its train.

"The nearest country to us is CAPETIA, a kingdom of great extent and population; but notwithstanding our vicinity and common origin, the people perhaps of no two planets or worlds can be more completely different, and from a mistaken policy in the governments of both for many ages, this difference between them has been always increasing, and ancient

antipathies have been exasperated and confirmed. You will not, therefore, be surprized, that when Capetia saw this domestic quarrel she should seize the opportunity of turning it to her own advantage.—In the cause of it she could take no other interest than mischief, as the colonies of Armata were contending for their liberties; whereas the Capetians had been for ages the devoted subjects of a monarchy nearly despotic, and seemed to glory in their degradation.—The apologists of Capetia have said that her king was advised to assist the revolted subjects of Armata at a distance, to turn the thoughts of his people from disturbing their own government at home: but be that as it may, a large army was sent by him beyond the seas, was encamped with the insurgents, and fought side by side with them in Hesperia—became enthusiasts in their cause, and was schooled for the first time in the principles of a free government, to which the Capetian people had before been strangers.—To maintain this auxiliary army, and to support the war which was of course declared against her for this

this perfidious alliance, the treasures which had been set aside for the extinguishment of her public debt were devoted to the prosecution of this expensive contest; and on its successful termination, the Capetian soldiers, after having been sharers in the triumphs of freedom, were recalled by their self-devoted country into her own bosom—she found a nest of serpents—Her finances were exhausted by her profligate exertions, her people were discontented, and the ordinary machinery of her government being unequal to the supply of the deficiencies in her revenue, she was driven in a most inauspicious moment to resort to an ancient constitution, which had been long trampled upon and set aside, but she had neither the skill to wield a weapon, the use of which had been long forgotten, nor the honesty to stand fairly by the popular assembly, whose assistance she had invoked.—It is not for me to become the historian of Capetia, above all to an inhabitant of another world, who can take no interest in her affairs; it is enough to say, that her government fell to

the ground, and was dissolved in blood—that her monarch was cut off—her ancient magistracies annihilated, and the persons of her magistrates destroyed or exiled; whilst the great mass of her people, who in no country are ever indignant but when they have suffered indignities, deprived of the support of their departed government, defective as it was, and too unskilful and distracted to proceed with wisdom or justice in the organization of a new one, became at once the perpetrators and the victims of crimes too horrible for the ear.

"It is but justice, however, to this unhappy people to remark, that their history had been widely different from ours.—In the remoter ages, when nations were the property of kings, and the people were like the cattle upon the soil, inferior sovereignties had from time to time fallen in by inheritance, or had been annexed by conquest, until the sceptre extended over an immense and various population, with customs as numerous and as different as their origins; without any common

common bond of union, and with minds enthralled by priestcraft, or subdued by despotism, to suffer without a murmur, and even to glory in the fetters which bound them.—On this base condition, no light had been let in, as in Armata, by an early commerce encircling a world; by the influences of a purer religion, bursting from the chains of superstition, nor by the combination, as with us, of all classes of the people, with the same interest to resist injustice when it pressed equally upon the whole:—but by an universal law of nature, all violent inequalities have their periods.—The air under its rough dominion is brought to its equipoise by tempests, and civil life by revolutions.—As Capetia grew in power and greatness, these inequalities became more odious; the simplicity of her ancient government, which I before described to you, as the general system of the robuster nations, had lost its character of freedom, and had given way to a dominion in which the people had no share, whilst the nobles and great landholders, instead of standing in their places, as in Armata,

became

became the obsequious satellites of the throne, whilst the clergy, who depended upon both, inculcated submission.—Yet still, whilst the multitude felt no extreme changes in their condition, such a government could suffer no change; but when, from the causes I have brought before you, the defects of this system began to be grievously and universally felt, *then* was the time for the few to have been wise, and not to have waited for an infuriated multitude to break in upon them.—The impending ruin was so long visible before it came to its fatal crisis, that many wrongs and sufferings may be said to have been almost chargeable upon the victims. Such scenes of horror, though cast in my infancy into this new scene of existence, thanks to the Almighty! can never reach me *here*.—We have our faults and our follies, and we seem now and then so enflamed against one another, as if some mighty contest were approaching, but such sudden heats have no more power to subvert our constitution, than a common pimple upon the skin to destroy the body.—Our rights, our pro-

properties, and our securities, are so bound up and interwoven, that from the prince upon the throne to the beggar in the streets with his tattered hat held out to you, we are as it were but ONE BEING, and nothing but universal death can dissolve us.

"In reverting to the undone Capetia, I wish I could throw a veil over this afflicting period.—In following my rapid abridgment you must be aware that, such a tremendous accumulation of horrors could not be condensed into a day.—They began in the delirium of popular fury, which could no more be calmed or resisted by the higher orders amongst themselves, nor by foreign assistance, than the desolations of an earthquake can by any human means be averted; but when the victims of the distracted insurrections had been dispersed, and when arranged under more civilized and reflecting leaders, they began to contemplate the preservation of their monarchy; *then* was the moment for Armata to have stood forward—*then* perhaps

she

she might have put aside the calamities which followed, the consequences of which are not yet wound up, nor within the reach of the wisest to foreknow.

"The Capetian people, except in the frantic moments of this sanguinary crisis, were notoriously devoted to a monarchical government; and even in the whirlwind of revolution could never have been driven from it, if proper means had been taken to prevent it.—Their earliest leaders professed openly and with an undisturbed support from a national council, to preserve the kingly government in the person of their King, under a balanced constitution, and when the storm was gathering at a distance to overpower it, the supplication which in his name they addressed to the Sovereign of Armata will be considered hereafter as the most afflicting and affecting document which history can ever have to record.—That unhappy prince only asked the commanding influence of this great country with alarmed and confederating governments.

ments.—He complained of the hostile armies which were surrounding his territories, and painted with but too prophetic a pencil the calamities impending over the nations that were assembling them; yet asked nothing for himself or for his people, than as they themselves should preserve peace, *and respect the independence of all other nations.* I will translate for you hereafter into the English language the whole of this pathetic supplication, with the answer to it, which I shall at present only abridge.—You ought to carry them into your own world, if you shall ever return to it, as the greatest curiosity that can be furnished by our's, or perhaps amongst all those that are now twinkling over our heads, even if they were to raise one by way of subscription through infinite space.—Perhaps the most curious part of the latter composition is, *that the ink was not frozen in writing it.*—It was a grand effort for an able statesman capable of saying every thing, to succeed so perfectly in saying nothing, and with the strongest

strongest and most animated feelings of his own, to become the torpedo of the Armatian cabinet.

"That you may fully understand this answer, I ought to premise that it was not even alleged in it, that the suppliant monarch had forfeited his claim to the compassion or favour of Armata, as he was covered all over with assurances of the warmest friendship; yet his Majesty's concurrence in the preservation or re-establishment of peace with the powers in question, was promised only through means *compatible with his dignity, and with the principles which governed his conduct;* and that the same reasons which had induced him to take no part in the *internal affairs* of Capetia, ought equally to induce him to respect *the rights and independence of other sovereigns,* especially those who were in friendship with himself. The mediation was thus declined with another concluding reason: —*because the war being now begun, the intervention*

vention of the King's good offices could be of no use, unless they were desired by all parties interested.

" Now, bringing down this proceeding from the high forms of diplomacy, what was it?

"The surrounding sovereigns, and even those remotely distant, were preparing to invade Capetia, then grievously and dangerously convulsed; but making an effort through her still-existing sovereign to tranquillize herself by entering into solemn engagements, for the tranquillity of other nations, and ARMATA was fixed upon as the most powerful amongst them all, to take the lead in this sublime object of morals and policy when a storm was gathering which threatened almost to deluge our world with blood.

" It may be admitted that there might nevertheless have been reasons for Armata, though thus invoked, to pause upon the proposition made

made to her.—She was not bound to be contented with *general professions*, but might have claimed the character of arbitrator *upon her own terms*, and have demanded preliminary securities for the performance of her award; and if she found that notwithstanding the dispositions of the sovereign who addressed her, his subjects were incapable of performing any engagements he might stipulate, *that* reason, *after due investigation*, might have been acted upon, *and even publicly assigned* for declining the mediation; or supposing them to have been capable of acting as a nation, yet, if there were doubts of their performing their parts with sincerity, Armata, as the sovereign umpire, might have proposed to add her mighty strength to that of confederating monarchs upon any breach of the conditions she might propose. But instead of this, or any part of it, or the profession of any one principle which ever entered a negociation for peace, this wretched prince, whose life then hung by a thread, but which might have been strengthened into a cable if the mediation had been

been accepted, was *first* told (as you have heard) that the King of Armata could only concur in maintaining the peace of nations *by such means as were compatible with his dignity*, without even a hint of how his dignity could be lowered by becoming BLESSED as a peace-maker; and, *secondly*, that he could only act *according to the principles which governed his conduct*; without saying a syllable of what those principles were, or HOW, *without his changing them, the supplicant might bring himself within them*

"The King of Armata was then further advised to say, *that not having interfered with the internal affairs of Capetia, the same sentiments ought to induce him to respect the rights and independence of other princes;* as if it ever had been heard of as an invasion of the rights of man or nation, to propose *(if they themselves should see no objection)* to become an arbitrator to avert desolation and bloodshed.

"The conclusion was in the happiest har-

mony with the introductory parts; his Majesty being advised to finish by declaring, '*that* THE 'WAR BEING THEN BEGUN, *his good offices could* '*be of no use unless they should be desired by all* '*parties interested.*' Now according to this doctrine, it must be taken to be always too late to mediate *after a quarrel has begun*, which I had always before considered to be *the very cause*, in all concerns, both public and private, for proposing a mediation; and if, according to this answer, mediation can be of no use unless desired by all parties, then not only no mediation could ever be useful, but few if any could possibly exist, because the desire of settling differences between contending parties, can rarely be to a moment simultaneous; and all that was asked of Armata was only that she should be the *first proposer* of this pacific umpirage, and that she should strengthen her proposal by the justly commanding influence of her wise and liberal counsels.

"If indeed she had accepted this god-like office,

office, and its usefulness had been disappointed by the obstinacy of other nations, the concluding sentence would then have been correct; but without even sounding the inclination of other princes on the subject, it is without parallel in the annals of nations, in the records of the courts of justice, or in the transactions of individual men.—The truth is, that it was the answer of a government which had determined to do *nothing*, and to give *no reasons*.—There was, AT THAT TIME, in my opinion, a conspiracy of kings against this unhappy nation, because, *though without knowing how to accomplish it*, she had determined to become free without asking their consent.—When you hear this from *my lips* it deserves *some credit*, because I am no friend to republics, *and would shed the last drop of my blood for a monarchy like our own*.—But, *be it remembered*, as I have before related, that it was *re-established* by our own people when its true principles had been overborne.

" Wishing however to do all justice to others

 whilst

whilst I maintain firmly my own opinions, I admit that this was the answer of a most able statesman, of cool reflecting habits, not less remarkable for enlightened opinions than for eloquence in their support, and I verily believe incapable of betraying the honour or interests of his country.—Were he now to hear what I am saying to you, he would, I am sure, give me credit for equal integrity, but from having long considered the subject in an opposite point of view, would wonder as much at my delusion as I have always wondered at his.—I must add, however, that he was not the minister, though he held the official pen, and I have never been able to persuade myself that it could have been a feather from his own wing.

" At this critical period, when mediation was thus rejected—critical even to a moment of time—if Armata had raised her voice amongst the nations, and had invited them to concur in the support of the party *(no matter what else belonged to it)* which then supported the throne,

or

or at all events to take no concern in the internal government of that country whilst their own territories were not invaded, she might have given to that distracted people a free constitution, have put down for ever the prejudices which had so long been the sources of perpetual warfare, and raised perhaps an immortal monument of universal freedom.

" In the history however of this momentous crisis, and to support this opinion, the utmost precision *as to time* is necessary, because many still deny that there ever existed any confederacy of hostile nations antecedent to hostilities against themselves; but to dispose of this assertion it may be accepted as truth, and the argument will then stand thus:—With the powers then confederated, or confederating, *or that only afterwards in their own defence did confederate,* the mediation of Armata, if not imperative and conclusive, would have had a most healing and conciliating effect.—*At that period* no invasion of other nations

had taken place, since even the paper war of her frantic democracy had ceased, and its offensive character had been disavowed.—The long succession of unprincipled, ferocious factions, which followed the rejected mediation, has always been resorted to as proof that there was no safety but in the hostile system which was adopted; but they who hold out those insecurities *at a later period than the one I have pointed out*, should at least be prepared to shew the danger which the *earlier* mediation might have produced.—It would be no argument in favour of a physician who was skilfully coercing a maniac, and reducing his dangerous strength, if it could be shewn, that by a different treatment in the beginning, his fever might probably have been subdued, and his reason completely restored.—It would surely at least lie upon him to shew that he had made *some trial of his art on the first symptoms of the disease.*

" My confidence in this opinion is the more unshaken

unshaken from the recollection that I held it at the very time, in common with a man whom to have known as I did would have repaid all the toils and perils you have undergone.—I look upon you, indeed, as a benighted traveller, to have been cast upon our shores after this great light was set.—Never was a being gifted with an understanding so perfect, nor aided by a perception which suffered nothing to escape from its dominion.—He was never known to omit any thing which in the slightest degree could affect the matter to be considered, nor to confound things at all distinguishable, however apparently the same, and his conclusions were always so luminous and convincing, that you might as firmly depend upon them as when substances in nature lie before you in the palpable forms assigned to them from the foundation of the world.—Such were his qualifications for the office of a statesman: and his profound knowledge, always under the guidance of the sublime simplicity of his heart, softening, without unnerving the giant strength of his intellect, gave

a character to his eloquence which I shall not attempt to describe, knowing nothing by which it may be compared.

" Had the counsels of this great man been accepted, much more if he himself had been to carry them into execution with his eminent companions, I must ever think that the peace of our world might have been preserved.—I have not forgotten that great numbers of wise and independent men *then* held and with equal firmness persevere in the contrary opinion; but their grand reason in support of it was never supported by the fact.—Their whole argument resting upon the danger to our monarchical constitution from *republican infection;* but if the course I have insisted on had been adopted, the Capetian monarchy might most probably have been preserved, and there would have been *then no republic to infect us!*"

My blood now rising in every vein, I could not help exclaiming, " Oh, that ENGLAND had been

been ARMATA—how differently would SHE have acted!—As nothing ought to have detached you from the forms and principles of your own government, it might have been incumbent at that period to watch over them with extraordinary caution; but self preservation, though it vindicates our securing our dwellings by any means from an approaching conflagration, can never justify the refusal of personal assistance to snatch the sufferers from the flames.—As to *republican infection*, even if *Capetia had then been a republic*, you, surely, must be infected yourself with some strange delusion to apply it to such a subject.—The nations preparing to invade her whose governments had never been reformed, might, according to your new phraseology, have dreaded such a contagion; *but after what you yourself have within a moment related of Armata, what had she to fear from it?* —nothing below is perfect—her almost divine institutions might have been thought capable of still higher improvements, *but there was no food within her land for* REVOLUTION.—Thus when

when our world is visited by one of its most malignant and contagious maladies it is alarming only to those *who have never had it*.—It is a disease only attracted by some morbid matter in almost every human body; but which, when once dispersed by the fever it excites, can never be excited again.—Wisdom therefore with us has disappointed its tremendous ravages, by raising this fever herself; chusing her own mode and her own time for doing it; safely and mildly reforming the constitution which had formerly perished by a revolution, in all the springs of life.—I cannot dismiss this metaphor (it is indeed too close to the subject to be called one) without applying it to Capetia also.—She, no doubt, caught the infection, as you are pleased to call it, from her contact with Hesperia, but she was in a condition only to receive it with confluent inflammation.—Her state was so foul that its foulness could not be extracted without such a shock, as in the natural body would have been death; but if her history had been like that of Armata, as you yourself have told

told it—if all the classes of her people had been, like your's, harmoniously blended, and she had been purified as you progressively became purer, she could no more have expired in the convulsions you are describing than a patient who with us has been vaccinated can be stretched out by it a loathsome carcass covered with putrid blotches, spreading pestilence and terror till the earth swallows him up.—Go on, then, to explain the mystery of this conduct.—You had been placed by Providence, as you set out by telling me, as its instrument and agent in your world, and it appears to me that you slept upon your post when you ought to have been most upon the alert in the fulfilment of your duty." "I feel the force of all you say," answered Morven, "but I hasten to pass by this painful subject.—Individual opinions ought to be held as nothing against public counsels, though it is our best privilege to express them, and I should not have insisted upon them at so remote a period, but that they usefully connect themselves with the events which will

soon conclude my narrative, in disclosing to you our present condition."

"That might be a good reason," I said, "for reserve, if you were publishing a history, but none for baulking the curiosity you have set on fire to find the clue to so extraordinary a state of things."—"I can give it you then," replied Morven, "very shortly;" and he then proceeded as the reader will find in the following chapter.

CHAP-

CHAPTER VIII.

In which Morven points out to the Author some additional Causes of the Revolutionary War with Capetia.

"MATERIALS for the annals of nations are difficult to be obtained; they are often secret, and are fugitive even when they can be traced. Histories, therefore, when written at distant periods, *except when they are built upon contemporary information, judiciously selected by eminent men of letters,** cannot but be erroneous.—This very period, involving the interests of almost all nations, most strikingly illustrates this truth.—It depended upon the combination of so many circumstances, that, without being a predestinarian, I am almost puzzled otherwise to account for them.

"The astonishing events which are soon to close my narrative, could not, upon any human

* The Author confidently anticipates such a valuable and enlightened History of England, from Sir James Mackintosh.

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calculation, *(at least in my opinion,)* have happened as they did, without the commanding talents of an extraordinary young man, who yet might not have flourished at so early an age, but from being the son of *another* man who had justly acquired a great reputation in our country by superior eloquence, always exerted in the cause of freedom; nor could his descendant, eloquent as he was, have risen to so premature an eminence but by treading in his father's steps, pleading the cause of public reformation, which *at that time* was highly popular, and of which he too took the lead in his very earliest youth: neither could even this illustrious course have produced the events which followed, but on the contrary might have averted them, if he had not turned short round on a sudden, and not only renounced his former opinions but sounded the alarm when others persevered in the sentiments they had imbibed from [illegible] lips.—But history is a libel when it deviates in any thing from the truth.—It must be admitted that the influence of the Capetian revolution had given an inflamed

flamed and dangerous character to the proceedings of many who had mixed themselves with this cause, demanding the most prompt vigilance of our government, and the firmest execution of the laws; but perhaps no man existing was therefore so well qualified as himself to have changed those turbulent excesses, and turned them, upon his own principles, into a safer course; a duty which, without assorting himself *unfitly*, he had the happiest opportunity of fulfilling, through an association of his own equals in rank and eminence, who were then discountenancing by their influence and example every departure from the sound opinions and declarations recently published by himself in his own name, and widely circulated amongst the people: yet the birth of this very association, (as far at least as times coincide,) was made the signal of universal alarm, and a proclamation by his authority almost instantly followed, which being the obvious forerunner of war, put wholly out of the question that politic and humane consideration for the suf-

suffering people of Capetia, which I shall die in the opinion of having been at the period before related the interest and the duty of the whole civilized world.

" I take no delight in these observations.—Posthumous reputation is often held too lightly.—We consider that the dead can gain nothing by our applauses, nor suffer from our censures: but supposing a man whilst living to have stood alone like a rock in the ocean, without children or kindred to represent him, I should still remember that this life was but a portion of an immortal existence, and fame being the highest inheritance, I should feel like a felon if I robbed him of what I believed to be his own.—I knew, then, this great minister in his youth, and foresaw his future destination.—His understanding was vigorous and comprehensive—his reasoning clear and energetic—his eloquence powerful and commanding—and as he was supported throughout his eventful career by immense numbers of disinterested and independent men,

men, it would be unjust not to believe that he was himself disinterested and independent.—His memory after death received this tribute from many illustrious persons who had differed from him in opinion, and it is not only held by his friends and adherents in affectionate remembrance, but in reverence as the saviour of his country.—Having from a sense of justice recorded this *last* testimony of an exalted reputation, I hold it to be a solemn duty to question and deny it, being convinced that if we *revere*, or even *abide* by the system which characterized his administration as having *formerly* saved his country, we shall not save it NOW.

"But to resume my history.—The circumstances which attended this ill-fated period are not yet summed up.—When the war with Hesperia was approaching, a warning voice, as it were out of Heaven itself, from its wisdom and eloquence, though drowned by the clamours of ignorance and folly in the outset, yet in

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the end alarmed the people into a sense of the ruin they were rushing on; but, alas! this very voice, which had breathed so happily the gentle accents of peace, was now heard louder than the trumpet of war, to collect our world to battle; spreading throughout the land an universal panic, until the public councils complained of sedition, but the *forum of the complaint* only inflamed it.—Instead of leaving it to the sovereign, in the ordinary course of law, to bring the suspected to trial, the evidence was collected by the great public councils; was exalted into treason of the highest order, and published by their command.—It was no doubt within their jurisdiction, and was their highest duty to protect the state; to proclaim a conspiracy if they believed it existed, and to direct prosecutions against the offenders; but it was repugnant to the very elements of the Armatian constitution, to involve individuals in the accusations, and to circulate amongst the people the accusing testimonies stamped with their supreme authority, when inferior tribunals were afterwards

wards to judge them.—In any other nation the consequences to the accused must have been FATAL: but there is a talisman in Armata which, whilst it is preserved inviolate, will make her immortal,—HER COURTS OF JUSTICE SPOKE ALOUD TO HER PARLIAMENT: —THUS FAR SHALT THOU GO, AND NO FARTHER.

"In returning to, or rather beginning an account of this extraordinary composition, whose author was only in metaphor brought before you, your surprize at its warlike stimulus will be increased, because I could have subscribed almost to the whole of it except in its REMOTEST APPLICATION.

"He set out by truly and perhaps seasonably observing, 'that men were not the insects of a summer, but beings of a superior order, the heirs of immortality—that they should therefore look upwards with pious reverence to their fathers, and downwards with anxious care to their pos-

 terity—

terity—that when they had accomplished a structure sufficient to maintain social order, much more to govern a great and enlightened people, it was more convenient to repair it when time had defaced it, and to improve it if originally defective, than to tumble it down in a moment to its foundations—that society was not a gang of miscreants, plundering and murdering one another, reviling all the institutions ordained to lead us into the paths of happiness and virtue, but a pyramid of human beings, rising in majestic order and harmonious in all its parts—that it was fit religion should consecrate such a structure—that her ministers should therefore be held in high respect, and should not be supported on the alms of those whom it was their duty to correct—that government also should preserve an attitude of dignity and wisdom, composed of high magistrates, invested with corresponding authorities and supported by revenues to secure obedience and independence—that a people, above all, for whose happiness this mighty system was fashioned and sup-

supported, should in their morals and manners be assimilated; that they should not be buried like dogs, as if they were to sleep for ever, but be remembered by monumental inscriptions, recording the achievements of those who had lived before them, and reminding the living that their histories would be read by those who were to follow them—that societies, however wisely constructed, were subject nevertheless to be shaken by the follies and wickedness of mankind, and that in those awful conjunctures the utmost fortitude became necessary to those who were to ride in such storms, yet tempered with a spirit of gentleness and mercy, shrinking back when called upon to strike, though justice and even necessity might demand the blow.'—He summed up all by a most eloquent reprobation, of an unprincipled regicide, declaring in language which I hope will always be remembered, that the immolation of the unhappy prince whom fate had set upon this volcanic pinnacle, and who, without any crimes of his own, must, in the harshest construction, have been the vic-

tim of the crimes of others, was base and inhuman; and in its wanton aggravation by indignity and insult, embittered by the foul murder of his queen and their helpless infants, cast a dismal shade over the moral world, suffering, as it were, an eclipse by the interposition of some infernal spirit between the Divine Creator and the beings who must perish but in his light.—Believe me, I feel for the hallowed shade of departed genius, and have endeavoured not to degrade, though it is beyond my power to do justice to such a distinguished composition; but you have no doubt been looking in vain all this while, and through all this eloquence, for any possible incitement to war, though intended by himself and applied by others to justify and provoke it.—If the work had been undertaken to illustrate the principles and duties of civil society in the *pure abstract*, it would have been as just as it was beautiful; but as a picture of Capetia, *before* her revolution, it was unfounded almost throughout, and in all that *followed* it was only an exquisite and in many parts a sublime

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exposure of the unhappy state to which she had been reduced by the desertion of Armata from her post: and how the rushing into battle with this delirious people was either to reform them or to secure ourselves, it is past my comprehension even to imagine."—"And of mine also," I hastily replied:—"had you nobody then to say so in your great public councils?"

"We had many," said Morven:—"occasions consummate the human character.—A political star of the first magnitude was then in his zenith, amidst a constellation of the brightest statesmen, who solemnly and repeatedly protested against the leap we were about to take, whilst we yet stood upon the brink.—They condemned the principle of this war, and foretold the consequences, but the delusion was too dense to be dispelled; and, that you may judge of its density, I will give you a specimen of the happiest and most approved manner in which this phalanx of great talents was opposed by those who supported their adversaries. To deny their

talents was impossible; and how do you think they went to work to run them down?—In no other way than by reiterating day after day in all accessible channels of public information, that *talents* were not only useless, but at all times perfectly ridiculous, and mischievously inconsistent with the wholesome government of a great nation.—You may think, perhaps, I am imposing upon you, or that I am in jest, as you have frequently before imagined; but I most seriously assure you, that this was the only order of the day amongst their opponents for years together." I laughed heartily, and said "it reminded me of the defence of a lunatic in England, before the commissioners who had imprisoned him:—He said that those who were at large were an insane majority, and shut up all the rest only because they had the sense to differ from them.—Now from the account you give me of Armata, at this period, your judges, I suppose, would have been imprisoned and the madman discharged."—"Perhaps they might," said Morven; "and indeed, since this new discovery,

covery, it is not at all an uncommon imposture to *pretend* even to be a natural fool, in hopes of superior preferment.

" But it is high time to return to the subject, though I seek no apology for the digression. A NOVEL derives its fame from the genius of its author, and its merit principally consists in a fanciful departure from truth; but the best written *History* can only be intercsting when it is believed to be true."

CHAP-

CHAPTER IX.

In which Morven gives the Author an Account of the War with Capetia.

"A WAR now immediately followed between Armata and this unhappy country, which soon involving many other powerful nations against her, the entire mass of her population, from the very *instinct of self-preservation*, became one general camp; and her wild democracy being unequal to the rule of a people so circumstanced, the commander of her armies became her KING. The stupendous exertions she then made are unparalleled, and nothing could have prevented her from overpowering all the states confederated against her, but the wealth and energies of our extraordinary people.—We had lost the season at the outset, of turning Capetia into the paths of peace, or (if that were found to be hopeless) of leaving her to be herself consumed

sumed in the flames her madness had kindled; and even after they had spread beyond her own territories, and were laying waste our world, Armata, in various stages, might, under other counsels, have extinguished them.—Had the new dynasty of Capetia, when it became firmly established and supported by *the undoubted voice of her people*, been sincerely acknowledged by other nations before their resistance to it had first overwhelmed them, I see no reason for thinking that the general tranquillity might not have been more securely settled than by the destructive scenes that followed, which besides the waste of human life and the enormous additions to our public burthens, gave a new and alarming character to other nations, from the necessity of large military establishments, countenancing in our own country, from the danger of foreign combinations, a force beyond our finance, and at variance with the spirit of our free constitution.

" But the practicability of *safe* pacification had

had its period.—When the extraordinary person at the head of the Capetian monarchy, who, under a different treatment, might have been to the full as pacific as other princes, began to see, that his throne except through war was insecure, it is no wonder that after having trampled upon and overthrown so many powerful kingdoms, his ambition should be lifted up beyond perhaps the impulses of his original character, even to the hope of universal empire.—To have made peace with him *then*, though brought down at last to a seemingly safe level by signal reverses, when there was a fair prospect of his final subjugation, became a doubtful question in the councils of Armata, dividing those in opinion *who were divided in nothing else*, combining *for the occasion* the authors of the war and those who had always condemned and continued to condemn them.—On the one hand, in our exhausted condition, a failure of the force of nations, or even a protracted contest, would have been fatal, as they looked only to Armata for resources; but on the other hand, an humbled and

and mortified ambition might have been unsafely left at the head of a numerous and powerful people, even if his *original* dispositions had been like those of other men.—Animals, however large and powerful, if not by nature ferocious, may be handled as if they were our children, and are daily conducted with safety through our most populous cities, but when cruelly goaded and roused up almost to madness, they destroy every thing in their course, and there is then no safety but in their deaths.—It was nevertheless a most difficult matter for decision, and in a case where such imminent dangers were on either side impending, it would be most unfair in weighing them, to measure them by the events I am to relate; but it is impossible to be the historian of Armata in such a crisis of her affairs without expressing the utmost admiration of the character of her people.

" When from her mistaken counsels, she was so deeply involved at last, as to have no safe retreat from the course she had taken, she then rose

rose even superior to herself, great and powerful as she ever had been—the combined nations were *in themselves* nothing—they had indeed brave and numerous armies, but without the sinews of war they were no better than the leaden men which are sold as toys for our children; —the money of Armata could alone breathe life into them or set them in motion, and it was for her alone to march them from the remotest regions, to end the contest in the Capetian capital; but though the husbandmen, the manufacturers, the *shopkeepers*,* and miners of Armata, or in other words her People, had bent their bodies, and bathed their foreheads with the sweat of labour to furnish the supplies for this auxiliary force; they had a still nobler part to perform for the honour of their country—they were before-hand with the legions they had created, and finished at a single blow the mur-

* The author has only printed the word shopkeepers in *italics*, because Morven, from some reason or other, raised his voice when he pronounced it.

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derous contest which had been desolating our world.

"There is near us another island, in union with Armata, and forming with her one empire, which came in for her full proportion of this glory; the hardy sons of PATRICIA were in all our ranks, and her soil produced the immortal hero who conducted the battle.

"No victory in human annals ever produced results so sudden and extraordinary.—The adversary, whose ambition and whose boast had been our destruction—who had built a thousand vessels to convey his armies to our shores—and who was then erecting a column, *even within our view*, to be crowned with his colossal statue pointing at us with his finger for his own, now fled when no one was pursuing, and gave himself up as a prisoner to the commander of a single ship.

"Such a fate of so wonderful a being affords a con-

convincing proof that our *apparent* destinies may generally be referred to ourselves.—In the earliest and most flourishing periods of his astonishing career, he was (*in my opinion*) more sinned against than sinning, and even when he was pushing on his legions to the most distant territories, I was for a while in spirit on his side, because I thought there was a conspiracy of governments against him, inconsistent with the principles of our own.—Some have thought he was so weak as not to see that there was no security for his own sovereignty whilst the sovereigns combined against him had an unlimited power over the persons and resources of their subjects; but my belief is, that he foresaw this danger though he upheld their governments, because he feared a worse in their subversion.—He had seated himself upon an imperial throne with a mock and servile representation, and trembled at the influence of free constitutions.—*This* was the rock on which he split.—If by politic and moral conventions when the sword was in his hand to enforce them, instead of by a sys-

a system of oppression and subversion, he had balanced in their own states the princes who opposed him, giving an interest to their people to support him, he might have surrounded himself with grateful and independent nations, to have guarded and almost to have adored him; but he left them insulted, pillaged, degraded, and in the hands of their uncontrouled and justly incensed kings, who of course made use of them to destroy him.—They were *no longer* mercenary, reluctant armies, but nations embodied against their oppressors.

"From the moment I marked this base and senseless policy I foresaw his ruin, because he was now opposing the progression of a world which, in spite of all obstacles, will advance, because God has ordained it.

"It is a grand and useful example, when the ends of men who abuse mighty trusts are thus signally disastrous.—We see distinctly the Divine Providence superintending and judging us, and

when I visited Capetia whilst Armata was passing through her provinces in triumph, the evidence of it was *decisive*.—This mighty man, who had shaken the earth, collected all its spoils, and overwhelmed its dominions, was not to be seen or heard of even in his own capital, amidst the trophies of his universal conquests."

I was moved by this just description, and said to Morven, "that it reminded me of a passage in our Sacred Scriptures most divinely eloquent, and which, since the days of the Psalmist, had never been so strikingly illustrated:—

'I myself have seen the ungodly in great power,
'and flourishing like a green bay-tree.—I passed
'by, and lo, he was gone.—I sought him, but his
'place was no where to be found.'

"So prosperous a conclusion of a war so protracted and ruinous, was a fair and a national occasion of triumph to its authors and supporters; but

but giving them all just credit for honest intentions, and for their vigorous exertions, it is the office of impartial history to condemn them.—*They themselves* created the mighty antagonist.—Their mistaken counsels rendered his subjugation indispensable, and his dominion so powerful that it could not be overthrown without almost the ruin of their country.—Allowing them, even, *for argument's sake*, all the pre-eminence over their opponents they contend for, what would there be in the comparison to boast of? because supposing the storm to have been inevitable, and in the end to have been skilfully weathered by them, which of two pilots would you prefer?—him who, though he saw it gathering, sailed out into the midst of it, and though laden with *money* only escaped *by throwing overboard his cargo*, or the other who, seeing the tempest also, would have remained in the harbour till it was overblown?

"I have now brought you down from the earliest ages to the present times, and the history

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is therefore finished; but one reflection presents itself too forcibly to be suppressed.

"To such a people as Armata victory ought to be no triumph but in its consequences.—She ought to consult the happiness of the nation that has been subdued, as faithfully as her own—she should hail the dawn of a representative government, the only antidote to despotism or revolution, and now that the evils of war have been terminated by her warlike exertions, her friendly influence should succeed them for the preservation of peace; but lest the fortunate close of this bloody æra should be confounded in future times with its unhappy commencement, she ought to blazon upon her national banners the auspicious principles of her own revolution—the guarantee to every people of the government of their own choice, whilst the independence of *other nations* shall be *reciprocally* respected.

CHAP-

CHAPTER X.

In which Morven relates to the Author the condition of Armáta on the conclusion of the War, and asks his opinion and advice.

"We are now arrived at a most interesting and painful conjuncture, to the particulars of which I must ask your utmost attention.—You have been cast upon the shores of the island, which has received you in a moment of great difficulty, and my father, as I have repeatedly told you, having always held up to me the English people as the great masters of political wisdom, I cannot but look to you for counsel in this arduous posture of our affairs.

"Not many months have passed since the glorious conclusion of the war whose history I have related, and up to that period, notwithstanding the immense sums expended in the contest, no sinew of the state appeared to be relaxed; no want was felt any where, and ad-

ditional burthens, instead of appearing to oppress the people, were overshadowed by voluntary gifts; agriculture flourished beyond the experience of former times; and our manufactures, though struck at by hostile conspiracies against their very existence, monopolised the markets of the world.—Peace came at last, so often invoked as the source of every blessing; but how shall I find credit when I tell you that scarcely had she finished her dove-like flight, and alighted amongst us, amidst universal acclamations, when our prosperity vanished like an enchantment!—The landlords looked in vain to their most opulent tenants for their rents, and they in their turn, even if their rents were remitted, could barely maintain themselves on the soil; labourers and servants in husbandry were every where discharged, and thronged our roads seeking in vain throughout the land for employment, and with their children begging their bread.—The manufacturers, though they suffered less, being partly upheld by foreign markets, yet without home consumption, could not but languish,

languish, and money had every where disappeared.—In such a state of a nation it is needless to say that its revenue must suffer; yet the common remedy by an increased taxation must needs be desperate when the people are already sinking under their present burthens.—It is a maxim in the medical world, that many distempers may be said to be cured when their causes are ascertained; but the wisest men among us are lost in amazement, and I cannot therefore help pausing here, to ask you what course would be pursued by England if she were in similar distress?—what, I pray you, can be the source of this sudden prostration of our happy condition, *and what is the remedy?*

"You have given me," I said, "no materials for answering your questions, and I must first put several to you; but perplex me no more by any appeals to England; my understanding is quite bewildered by referring to a state of things so dissimilar.

"To begin then the series of my inquiries, let me ask how much you have added to your public debt in the prosecution of your late glorious war, and what is now the proportion of the whole of it taken together to the tangible convertible property of your nation—or, to simplify my question by dividing it, what proportion does your debt bear to the precious metals, which with us, as with you, are accepted by all nations as the universal representative of wealth?" Morven could not help smiling at this first proposition, and answered, (in jest as I *at first* supposed,) that it had increased TEN-FOLD, and amounted to more than all the precious metals that had been dug from the bowels of the earth since the discovery of the countries which contained them, and that if all nations were to empty into the treasury of Armata every coin in circulation amongst them, laying at her feet in bullion all that had been fashioned from gold or silver into vessels and utensils for luxury or use, tearing from the brows the diadems of all princes, and throwing down into the furnace

nace the sacred images from the shrines of all temples throughout their whole planet, it would not perhaps be sufficient to extinguish the debt.

" But let me abandon this general description, which, though calculated to excite astonishment, is absurdly misapplied to a subject which requires the utmost possible precision.—I had forgotten also that I was speaking to a stranger from another world, who can know nothing of our mines and metals, or of their supposed productions and values; and having prepared myself besides to satisfy your inquiries, I can give you the whole account in your own English money, and unless this twin of your earth has been for some cause or other disinherited, and all the wealth bestowed by nature upon her brother, the figures of the accountant will even outstrip *my figures of speech*.

" To place this subject in the clearest point of view—the island of Armata, though shaken by various

various revolutions, and though engaged in wars through many centuries, had nevertheless, on the accession of her present sovereign, a debt rather less than an hundred millions of your money, bearing an interest of about five millions; but from the expenses of the war with Hesperia and Capetia united, the country was delivered over to the charge of the minister I have already described to you, with a debt increased to the *immense amount of two hundred and sixty millions*, with an annual burthen of *thirteen millions*, speaking in your English money.

" Now I cannot surely be charged with leaning upon the memory of any man, however illustrious, when I assert that so *enormous a debt*, characterized too by so *rapid an increase*, ought to have inspired the utmost providence in the administration of our finances; neither can I hazard any censure which I shall at all regard, when I further assert, that if the popular council, having the uncontrouled dominion over the public

public wealth, had been itself more under the controul of the people *who were to sustain the burthens they laid upon them,* the debt would not probably, in so short a period, have reached this magnitude, much less have enabled me to tell you that *the same minister* left it swoln from the *two hundred and sixty millions* and upwards, which I gave you, to the sum of *five hundred and forty millions,* increasing the annual taxation before given you, from *thirteen* to above THIRTY MILLIONS; which in the further prosecution of the war by his successors, and by the public councils *acting upon his system,* again swelled to the almost incredible amount of nearly *seven hundred millions,* still speaking in your English money.—Yet the most alarming part is still behind, in the increased expenditure, which, unless corrected, seems to mock all redemption.—The same minister found it only about twenty-one and left it nearly *sixty millions* ANNUALLY, and it has under his successors been still advancing.

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"The *collateral* burthens, which all equally press upon the people, rose in the same proportion; and notwithstanding the universal boast of increasing prosperity, the same minister found the poor supported by rates not much exceeding the sum of *two millions*, but left it more than *five*, which afterwards increased under his successors to nearly *seven millions*, still speaking in your English money.

"But other evils must be added.—To produce an annual revenue of so vast an extent many taxes were resorted to of the most pernicious character, particularly affecting the administration of justice; and having thus closed the account of the taxes upon the living, I will conclude the subject with their dominion after death.

"The highest duty to government only twenty years ago, either on wills or on inheritances, amounted to only sixty pounds, but NOW (except when the property vests in near relations or kindred)

dred) on the former it may amount to above *two hundred times* that sum, and on the latter to nearly *three hundred,* as the highest duty on the first may be *fifteen thousand,* and on the last above *twenty thousand pounds,* without taking into the account a proportion of the property transmitted, which in some cases amounts to a tenth.

"This is the most grievous of all our burthens.—The justest government may have occasion to resort to a moderate duty on alienations and transmissions of all descriptions of property, but it ought to advance with the most cautious and even trembling steps.—A mighty nation in its public character should scorn to sit like a vulture over departing breath.

"It may appear perhaps ungrateful to a country that embraced my beloved parents and myself in the hour of our peril and distress, that I should have exposed her difficulties in the manner I have done; but I appeal for my motives to the Great Searcher of hearts.—It is

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of the utmost importance that the public condition in all its details should be *universally known and understood.*—Ignorance can do no mischief if wisdom has materials to correct it, and evil-disposed persons are always most successfully resisted, when, though no facts are concealed or misrepresented, erroneous conclusions may be denied."

I expressed the utmost satisfaction at this just and honest declaration after an exposure sufficiently dismal; saying, "that I was well aware of the abundant wealth which might belong to a nation beyond the value of its universal representative, or even to a thousand times its amount.—Go on, then," I added, "that I may know your whole state, before I tell you what I think of it; and the next question which I shall therefore put to you is, what part of the substance of the people is taken by your government in the shape of direct taxes, or, of the indirect ones, arising from the increased prices of commodities which are taxed? and as it is extremely

extremely difficult to arrive at the total amount of property in a great country, tell me, *in the rough*, putting it in English money that I may understand you, how much does your government *at an average* take from the subject out of every pound he possesses?"—"It is difficult," he said, "to answer that question, because taxation is unequal, and cannot possibly be equalized; but if resort could be had to an equal rate comprehending the aggregate of the various sources, I should say it amounted to one half at least."

"I must further ask you, whether you have any other burthens upon property besides those which are directly levied by your government for the support of the state?—"We have," said Morven, "the clergy and the poor.

"With regard to the former, though it is a heavy burthen, yet we suffer more in the *manner of its collection*, than in the amount.—The ministers who bring us the consolations of religion

religion ought to be regarded with reverence and affection.—It is a most evil policy to make the common orders of the people consider them as their oppressors.—They ought never to be *personally seen* in the demand of what is destined for their support.—Deductions from temporal advantages for the maintenance of spiritual comforts should be guarded as much as possible from being constantly felt, and little difficulty would attend an arrangement which would add dignity to the clergy without abridging their revenues, and improve their connection with the multitude they are to instruct.

"As to the support of *what is called* the poor, the amount of which I have already related, it has spread pauperism through all the middle classes of the community.—In the earlier periods of our history the burthen of maintaining them was scarcely felt, our ancient law confining it to the relief of 'the lame, the blind, and the 'impotent, and such others *amongst them* as were 'unable to work.'—Every principle of humanity demanded

demanded that support from those whom Providence had exempted from such severe infirmities; but every principle of sound policy opposed its further extension, and it was limited at first, in every district, to one-fortieth, which, speaking in your coin, would be only *sixpence in the pound;* but, by a strange departure from the principle of the original law, it now often exceeds forty times that amount, and in some places even the annual value of the property on which it professes to be a tax.—To be entitled to relief, it is no longer necessary that the applicant should bring himself within any of the descriptions of the ancient law; neither blindness, nor lameness, nor impotence, nor even inability to work, are necessary qualifications for support; large houses in every district being *now* built for the reception of almost *any body who chooses to go into them,* and from a prostration of morals it is no longer felt as a humiliation or a reproach; even they who, from their own improvidence, have contracted marriage though they knew themselves to be utterly

incapable of maintaining their children, have a claim to cast them upon the public as soon as they are born, and to live with them as inmates in those receptacles intended for the promotion of industry and the relief of want, but which, from the very nature of things, under the best management, become the abodes of vice and misery; where the aged, the diseased, the idle, and the profligate, the two first classes being everywhere outnumbered, are heaped upon one another, giving birth by their debaucheries to a new race of paupers, till they become "a kind of putrid mass above ground, corrupted themselves and corrupting all about them." —To finish the picture of abuse: this enormous and still growing burthen is almost exclusively cast upon the proprietors and occupiers of land, who ought least to be called upon to bear it, as neither their diseases nor their vices contribute in any kind of proportion to the aggregate of the poor.—The simplicity of a country life furnishes but a small contingent of either.—The vicious and the distempered

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are hourly vomited forth from the mines and manufactories, where contaminating multitudes and unwholesome labour produce every disgusting variety of decrepitude and crime, yet neither the proprietors of those establishments, nor the capitalists who roll along the streets of our cities in splendid carriages, pay any thing like their proportions to the support of the idle and the unhealthy they have produced.—Almost the whole is cast upon the cultivators of the soil, who, except in the very houses I have described, supported by their property and labour, see nothing around them but innocence and health.

"Your questions," said Morven, "are now answered; and I burn with impatience to hear how England would deal with the evils I have stated."—I felt, I confess, rather hurt at this insulting reference to my beloved country, after what I had formerly said: but *contented myself* for the present with informing him that other questions yet remained.

"How," I asked, "after the return of peace, should there have been no markets for the farmer's produce?—Surely, in peace, as in war, your people must be fed?"

"The demands of government during war," he answered, "were *enormous*, and supplied by contracts at very high prices, to be sent beyond seas for the support of fleets and armies, and the inhabitants of countries which were the seats of war, besides the sustenance of immense numbers of prisoners at home.—On the cessation of hostilities this vast consumption not only suddenly stopped, but the tide turned against us, and great quantities of foreign corn were poured in from those very countries whose battles we had been fighting, not only with our blood but our treasure; so that remaining comparatively unburthened, they could raise every kind of grain at one-third of the expense which falls upon the Armatian farmer.—With this foreign grain of every description our markets now became glutted, whilst our own pro-

produce remained in our granaries unsold; because the importers could sell at a large profit, for a price which would scarcely pay the labour and taxes upon an Armatian farm.

"But where was your government all this while?"

"Our government," he answered, "was no otherwise in fault than in not being perhaps sufficiently on its guard to prevent the evil at the very first moment of the peace; and when at last it proceeded to pass a law to check importations, it had great difficulties to encounter; the multitude, who, in all nations, are honest and upright, but who, upon the most important occasions, are often quite incapable of understanding their own interests, became every where tumultuous, even to riot and rebellion, reasoning *(if it deserve the name)* that whatever had a tendency to raise the price of bread, without any reference to the causes of the then prices of grain, was an unjust and

cruel disregard of the wants and sufferings of the poor; but their ignorance was soon proved by the event.—When the foreign corn was selling cheap in our markets, whilst that of their own country remained in the barns undisposed of, bread was undoubtedly cheaper, *but they had then no money to buy it with however cheap*, because their masters could no longer employ them, and they were every where discharged.—When grain fetched an encouraging price to the growers, they were all employed, and wages of course rose in proportion to the value of their labour to their employers; but when, from the sale of foreign corn in all the markets, it sunk below any profit from home cultivation, bread, as I have just told you, became cheaper, but the clamourers had no bread at all.—A cheap loaf was but a sorry sight to those who had only to look at it.—The kingdom therefore presented every where a face of the utmost distress; nor is the law which even now regulates importations by any means sufficiently protective, because that which was intended to be the lowest price

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in our markets became generally the highest; a consequence foretold in our public councils when the law was in progress, by one of the ablest men in our country.—The law indeed would be sufficiently protective, if, when the ports were open under it, our markets were only refreshed by the fair commerce of foreign countries until they fell again below the importing standard; but that is by no means the case: the importations are not made by foreigners, but by capitalists amongst ourselves, who having money enough to stand the losses of unsuccessful speculations, can bring in their corn at the most favourable times, and being allowed to warehouse without duties, have their granaries always full, when the law enables them to sell; which suddenly throws down the markets, to the ruin of our agricultural classes.

" But the mistaken notion, which crippled the law in its formation, was very soon exposed. When the ruined farmers had in many places discharged their labourers, and throughout the

whole country had reduced their establishments, the unemployed with their children fell of course upon the public; and the manufacturers and traders, whose customers now filled our poor-houses and our prisons, found out at last that God had so fashioned the world, that all his creatures must flourish or decay together.

" Another evil of almost equal magnitude overhangs us.—We have a creature called the *bletur*, which is not only the perfection of animal food, but whose covering, given it by nature, becomes when manufactured our own also, and for many ages has been the pride and wealth of our country.—Would you then believe, that though other nations produce the same animals, at such an inferior price, from their climates and untaxed conditions, as to render all competition ridiculous; yet this raw material is suffered to be imported and worked up here, whilst the breeders of Armata can scarcely pay their shepherds for the care of their flocks, and are every where

where breaking up their farms, even in those parts of the island proverbially famous for their propagation?

I could not here help interrupting again, by asking—"Where was your government all this while?—or rather perhaps I should ask, have you any government at all?—"Certainly," he answered, "we have, and one that is justly the envy of our world; but nothing is perfect.—The matter was lately brought before the great council, and was passed over without redress; but you must not be hasty in judging of the national character from such a seemingly absurd determination.—The great council is composed of men far superior, from talents and information, to those of any other country, but who are now and then obliged to suffer their own good sense to be overshadowed by the *nonsense* of others; they are not chosen equally by the various classes of an intelligent people, but are got together in such a manner that local interests and local prejudices sometimes prevail

prevail over the opinions of enlightened statesmen.—If you had understood our language, it would have amused you to have been present at their debate.—The greater number said that they would not depart from an ancient policy of free importation, under which the country had so long flourished, and I have no doubt they believed they were pursuing its best interests; but they probably never looked into an account—they knew nothing of the immense and alarming *increase* of the importations complained of, nor their former proportions at different periods to the home growth, nor the effect of this increase upon the staple of the country, nor did they consider whether our own bleturs might not be brought by proper encouragements to a higher, perhaps to a perfection equal with those of any other country, so as in time to supply most of our manufactures at as cheap a rate, preserving within ourselves the immense sums annually drained from us by purchasing *abroad* what we might produce at *home*. When this improvident conclusion of the

the select body was brought before the whole council, they, without further examination, confirmed it; and then, as innocently as the bleturs which were the subjects of their decision, went out of the fold in which they had been penned to scatter themselves over the capital, where I will very soon carry you to see them."

"Have you now," said Morven, "any other questions to propose?—I am impatient to hear your opinions."

"Others yet remain.

"Is there any fixed interest of money amongst you? and, if there be, are there any means by which avarice and chicanery can successfully evade the law which creates the limitation?"—"There are," he replied, "and to such an extent as to render it difficult, if not impossible, for men possessed of the clearest and most unburthened property to borrow the smallest sums for the improvement of their estates."

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"In what state are your manufactures?—Are your people equally industrious as formerly, and are they equal to other nations in the ingenious arts?"

"As much beyond them," he answered, "as the sun outshines the smallest star that only twinkles when he has set. There are some arts, perhaps, in which, as we do not prize them so highly as others, we may be inferior; but in all the great improvements of the higher, which assist human labour, and which can only be brought to perfection by the deepest knowledge of chemistry and mechanics, we have no equals, nor can ever, I believe, be rivalled. There is a force and robustness, if I may so express myself, in the natives of Armata, as if they were of a different species from the ordinary race of men."

"I rejoice to hear it—one question then only remains—

"Have you fisheries?"—Are your seas prolific, and

and are the fish directed by a mysterious instinct, as in our world, to visit periodically the coasts of the ocean, as if brought thither by the Divine command for the sustentation of man?"

"You seem," answered my friend, "to have been describing *this country* in adverting to *your own*. The fish of this planet are prolific beyond all other creatures, and are bound, as with you, to an appointed course. The finger of God, visible as it is throughout all his works, seems here to be more distinct and manifest; pointing with a benevolent clearness to this inexhaustible source of food. The supply has been always a great national object, *but improvement has not reached its height*, and never can reach it whilst a most improvident and enormous duty upon salt, amounting to thirty times and upwards of the value of the commodity, is suffered to remain as it is at present regulated by our laws."

CHAPTER XI.

In which the Author begins to deliver his opinion concerning the state of Armata, and the remedies for the difficulties which Morven had related.

"You shall now then," I said, "be possessed of my opinions—I have little, indeed, to communicate, having only in a manner to give you back what is your own. Your answers to my various inquiries have been so enlightened, that I can hardly mistake the condition of your country, but its novelty *throughout* has perplexed me. The remedies, though they may be difficult in the application, are in their principles obvious and simple.

"Your government, according to your own admission, had long ago absorbed a much larger proportion of the public wealth than can possibly be consistent with the prosperity, I had almost said with the existence of any state. And

And no ordinary cause of war—nothing, indeed, short of self protection from an invading force, could have justified the launching out into such a wasteful system of expenditure, as to have increased ten-fold in less than thirty years the burthen of ten centuries." "We had no choice," said Morven, interrupting me, "after the short opportunity I pointed out to you had passed; we sought to avoid war, but it was fastened upon us."

"I am in no condition," I answered, "to dispute with you upon facts; but your adversaries were in the phrenzy of a sanguinary revolution, and were more likely to destroy themselves than to injure others.—You should therefore have exerted your influence with other governments to leave them unmolested; and if, by a firm and faithful combination, some safe direction could not be given to so inflamed and dangerous a people, all nations should have stood aloof from them as from the mouth of a volcano, attaching their own subjects by wise and indul-

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gent councils, increasing *for the time* their military establishments, and keeping within their own territories in a state of impregnable defence.

"But supposing the views of other nations to have been different, or that differing from yours in opinion, your mediation had been rejected, you were completely independent of them all, and as far therefore as your own country was concerned *nothing ought to have removed you from a system of defence.* You are an island with immense naval and military strength. Within yourselves you were secure—and you ought not, though you were involved in war, to have carried it beyond your own limits.—A contrary system could not have been contemplated by men of common discretion without foreseeing a ruinous expense; but nothing seems to have occurred to your most sagacious financiers beyond the simple question of the competency of the *new* taxes to pay the interest of *additional* loans; their bearings upon the springs of national industry and prosperous commerce appear

appear to have been wholly overlooked, except in the closets of a few speculative writers who foresaw the ruin of the system, but miscalculated its period, from not taking into account the almost incredible energies of your extraordinary people. This was a great evil; because when the æra of their prophecies had passed away, it operated as a kind of license for unbounded profusion. Œconomists were of course discountenanced, and jobbers of every description encouraged in a triumphant cry against factious predictions, until it seems to have become a received or rather an unquestionable axiom amongst you, that no debt which figures could extend to denominate would ever affect the invulnerable and immortal Armata: since, contrary to the experience of our jockeys in England, the more weight she had carried the greater had been her speed. That this bubble did not burst whilst hostilities continued may easily be accounted for.—Whilst your government was the universal paymaster, your forges resounded night and day, your looms were incessantly

plied, and your warehouses for manufactures and natural productions were almost hourly emptied and replenished; high prices and prompt payments were considered as symbols of the most permanent prosperity, and the just pride of national glory confirmed *the delusion:—well may it be called delusion!* because the traffic which you imagined had enriched you was carried on with your own capitals, and every article purchased was paid for with your own money. Individual sellers were, no doubt, often more than compensated for their proportions of what *all of you* were to discharge, but *the community* of course became poor in the proportion of the amount expended, since the amount expended was their own. When peace therefore came, which had been so long and so anxiously looked for, markets of every description and the prices of all commodities became comparatively nothing, whilst the people were bent to the earth by the interest of the money borrowed to pay for the goods which had been sold. Your great purchaser was, no doubt, most liberal and punctual

punctual in his payments, but they could only be made by his putting his hand into your own pockets. It is folly to say, that the public debt of a nation is nothing, being only owing from the community *at large* to a *part* of it, and so returning in a circle; likening it to money due from members of the same family to one another, which, it was said, would leave the family just the same as if no such loans amongst themselves had existed. There might be some colour for this comparison if the whole population were public creditors in equal proportions; but what would become of the argument, if the lenders were not more than a twelfth part of the people, and if those who, when the taxes were brought back by government into circulation, received any part of them for services or from favour were but another twelfth part of them?—could it, *in such a case*, be maintained as a grave argument, that the five-sixths of the public, paying the same as individuals, but receiving nothing in return for their equal contributions, were yet on a footing of equality with others

who were more than indemnified, and even with those who had been enriched? or could it be hazarded as doctrine by any political œconomist, that a nation so circumstanced could be equally powerful or prosperous, or its inhabitants equally happy, as if the public wealth flowed in a natural current through all the various classes of the civilized world? Such sophistry might well pass current in England, where nobody has an interest in questioning it, because our debt is too insignificant to raise up antagonists to oppose it; but if we had seventy millions to pay annually, a sum more than half the rental of our whole kingdom, and if only three or four millions of our people out of our whole great population, received any part of it back again, but remained in a comparative state of poverty and exclusion, the air would ring with exclamations against the propagation of an error so palpably dangerous and destructive.

"It cannot, indeed, be better exposed, since it should only be met by ridicule, than by telling you

you of a loss which I personally suffered before I left England, and for which I was not a little laughed at amongst my acquaintance—

" I happened to go, after a theatrical representation in London to a general rendezvous for refreshment in the neighbourhood of the play-house: whilst I was at supper, there came into my box a person in a state of great agitation and distress.—His appearance bespoke the utmost poverty, and I was therefore not a little surprized to see him pull out of his pocket a time-piece, of great beauty, set round with precious stones, which he offered to sell me just at any price I would set upon it, adding, that nothing but finding an immediate purchaser could save himself and an infant family from destruction. I excused myself, by saying, that I hoped he would not think I meant to insult him by any suspicion of his honesty, but that common prudence, as well as justice to others, inspired a reasonable restraint in such a case upon the most charitable feelings.

I told him, however, giving him at the same time my address, that what he asked for was at his service, but not as the price of his watch, which should be re-delivered on the re-payment of the money. He seemed greatly affected by my proposal, returned me a thousand thanks, pressed my hands between his, and turning aside, as if to conceal his tears, retired with the bank notes I had given him. On returning home I shewed the watch to my family, taking not a little credit for having refused so advantageous a bargain, saying it must be, at least, of equal value with my own, which had cost me five times the money. I now put my hand into my pocket to make the comparison, but found I had it not. To cut the matter short, which you no doubt already anticipate, *it was my own watch I had paid for*, which this ingenious stranger had deprived me of in the play-house, and sold to me as his." Seeing my friend almost convulsed with laughter, I could not help saying to him, " Laughable as it may be, it is scarcely an exaggeration of the account you

you have been giving me of your country during your late war, and if you understood Latin I would say to you—

De te fabula narratur.

"The true way of estimating the disastrous consequences of your present taxation, is to figure to yourself (if you can bear the reflection) the sensation it would *at this moment* produce, if some new and unexpected source of annual revenue were to start up to the amount of *twenty millions of your money.*—Would it not in your present condition be like a resurrection from the dead?—Yet in this *one reign* you have created a *perpetual burthen* of nearly twice that sum. Could volumes so strikingly detail the effect of this worst of evils?

"The cause of your distress is therefore the clearest imaginable.—Your government collects in taxes so large a proportion of your property, that the rest is not sufficient to support your people; in such a case it is a mistake to com-

plain of the want of a circulating medium as an *accidental* and *temporary* cause of your difficulties, capable of being removed by politic contrivances. We have a vulgar saying in England, that you can have *no more of a cat than his skin;* and if out of twenty shillings, not less than ten are consumed by government and by collateral burthens, ten only can remain *in real and substantial circulation;* the scarcity of money may be lamented, and ingenious devices may be held out as remedies, but without a *radical system of improvement*, rendering property more productive, and trade more prosperous, what danger can be greater than opportunities of borrowing, when there are no means of repaying what is borrowed?—If land, from having sunk below its former rental, is mortgaged to more than half its value, would it be any thing like an advantage to the proprietor to find out *even a fair lender*, who would advance him money on the remaining part? since, without *some means of improvement*, his estate in the end must infallibly be sold.

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" The same consequences apply equally to communities as to individuals, and there is therefore no safety for Armata, but, *first*, in the wisdom of her government, and in the energies of her people, to raise the value of every species of property, *by the almost infinite ways within their reach;* and *secondly*, by the immediate reduction of her expenditure to square with her revenue, as far as can be made consistent with the public safety and the principles of national justice.

" A great orator in our ancient world, when asked what was the *first*, and the *second*, and the *third* perfection of eloquence, still answered ACTION, not to exclude other perfections but to mark its superior importance; so *I*, who am no orator at all, but a plain man, speaking plainly of the policy of an exhausted country, must say that your *first*, and your *second*, and your *third* duty, is RETRENCHMENT, meaning, as the rhetorician, not that it is your *whole* duty, but only that its *pre-eminence* may be felt.

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" I am aware of the great difficulties which must attend a satisfactory execution of this momentous trust, but after what you have related of Armata, *I cannot doubt the result.*—On the contrary, a severe and unexampled pressure may open men's eyes to their real condition, and give such a simultaneous impulse to your government and people, as to make them act harmoniously and firmly, in devising and submitting to the measures necessary for the redemption of your affairs.

" In this grand process of restoration, it is of the first importance that the public mind should not take *a wrong direction*, looking for savings which in the aggregate would be *as nothing*, whilst principles of justice, which *are every thing*, were disregarded.—Your retrenchments must not have the character of confiscations nor of revolutionary heat, and the different classes of your people, so happily blended as to have a common interest, must not be set at variance.—No justice can be done where irritation

tation prevails, and in England therefore no court is permitted to sit in judgment, unless they who are to pronounce it are dispassionate and unbiassed.—I can see no distinction between the members of a community in a great crisis of its affairs—when a ship is in distress *all on board* must take their turns at the pump.—The public creditor undoubtedly lends his money upon the faith of the whole nation, pledged through its government to a stipulated return, and it is a MOST SACRED PLEDGE; but the landholder improves *his property* upon the SAME FAITH, that he shall enjoy its profits, subject only to an *equal* burthen *upon all*.—What colour then is there for saying, that, if that revenue were to fall short to which the public creditor looked when he lent his money, the deficiency should be made up to him by DISPROPORTIONATE *burthens* upon *lands* on which he had no mortgage, nor their proprietors any special benefit from the loans?

" Neither—and for the same reasons—ought you

you to lay *disproportionate* burthens upon the profits of any manufactures or ingenious arts, begun in any *given state of your country*, that you may keep what is termed good faith with a very limited number of your subjects.—Every just government, however, must proceed in extreme or in new cases with the utmost caution, taking care that no principle is adopted which works *a wrong*, however small in the particular instance it may appear, because it opens a door to *other wrongs*, the extent of which cannot be known, and saps the very foundations of the social contract.—The true course to be pursued is, after all, most difficult in the details, though the principles, as I have said, are clear; since with every qualification of wisdom and justice in those who may have to act, or of fortitude and patience in those who are to suffer, differences of opinion must always attend any sudden and cutting reforms in great national establishments, both as to the extent of reductions and the seasons for their accomplishment.—Every class will feel most acutely for itself,

itself, and it is difficult to be a righteous judge in our own cause.—This prejudice may even extend to cases where there can be no approach to self-interest, and it may perhaps most powerfully affect my own judgment at this moment, when I am discussing the policy of another world.—The first object of retrenchment after the general peace you have described, ought undoubtedly, *to some extent or other*, to be the reduction of your naval and military forces; because their services are no longer necessary for your safety; but they may *again be necessary*, and the utmost skill and caution are therefore required to preserve their *fabric* and *constitution*, when you diminish their extent.—The condition also of many who have so nobly served you, is a subject *I almost weep to think on*.—It should be remembered, that those brave men have been for years together in most perilous and unwholesome stations; that their pay could not be sufficient to support them, and in many cases their families also,—left behind them, oppressed with poverty and the wretchedness

wretchedness of separation.—It is surely, therefore, an intemperate spirit that would drown the acclamations of joy for victories purchased with their blood, by a clamour to dismiss them, *at once*, to hopeless misery.—A reduction you must nevertheless make, since an unusual pressure demands it, but let not their cause be prejudiced by imaginary dangers to your civil government, which, *with one stroke of a pen*, can sweep away their very name and existence.—Be firm, then, in your purpose to lop off all burthens which lean without necessity upon your revenues, but be *gentle and considerate* in the process; softening, as far as possible, the severe privations which duty may compel you to inflict.

" Let me deceive you however in nothing.—I am no authority on this part of your case.—I was bred to arms from my earliest youth in my own world, and feel such an enthusiasm in every thing that regards the naval or military professions, that if the subject had arisen with us, and

and I had been placed in our public councils, I should probably have differed in opinion from those with whom I differ in nothing else."

CHAP-

CHAPTER XII.

In which the Author continues to deliver his Opinion upon the State and Condition of Armata.

"ANOTHER momentous duty now presents itself, and of a more pleasant character.—Whilst you are reducing your expenditure, every effort ought to be made, and, if possible, without the aid of new burthens, to regenerate the public estate, which neither in its value nor in any of its resources, has nearly reached its height.—From an inhabitant of another world you cannot expect details; but, founding myself upon your own statements, I will point out some manifest errors in your system, and advert to the most obvious remedies?

"In the first place, then, to enable a state to collect a great and *direct* revenue from the property of the people, it ought to be a grand object to make all *collateral burthens* press upon them

them as lightly as possible by the most refined policy in the administrations of all inferior departments, and to suffer no abuses whatsoever to prevail in them: this is not the work of a day, but of painful and long-continued labour in the legislative body, and throughout all the magistracies of the country.

"That this duty has been wholly lost sight of in a most vital part of your concerns, you have yourself admitted and lamented.—Nothing indeed can be so extravagantly absurd and preposterous as the management or rather THE CREATION of your poor, by which your government suffers to escape from it, (without any relief to its subjects, but on the contrary oppressing and corrupting them,) an annual revenue of nearly half your general taxes when your late war began, since you have stated that above seven millions are every year collected on that account.—To advise you, *in this case*, requires no local knowledge; an inhabitant of the moon, dropped down from it upon your surface, would,

in the very next moment, be fully qualified to condemn the absurd and disgraceful system of your laws.—It was an insult, (though I am sure not intended,) to ask me what ENGLAND would do in a condition to which she never can be reduced.—ENGLAND would never have permitted her houses of charity, if a mistaken policy had erected them, to be converted into the haunts of vagabonds and prostitutes to knot and gender in, throwing the whole burthen of their debaucheries upon the industrious classes of her people—ENGLAND would laugh to scorn the laboured system of folly you have described, bringing no comfort to the necessitous, whilst it swallows up, in many instances, the entire property on which it professes to be a tax—ENGLAND, instead of setting up courts throughout the whole country to play at foot-ball with the unhappy, whom she meant to protect, driving them to and fro from one part of the kingdom to the other—ENGLAND would begin by confining public charity to those who were real objects of charitable support; and, wise in

all

all her regulations, would then enact a system of equal and local contribution from all who, from *any source of property or industry*, could spare it; a contribution which the wealthy would not feel, and which would be felt even by the lowest orders not as a burthen, but as a protection from ever being themselves the objects of a degrading and corrupting relief.—Those mischievous receptacles of vice and misery, which you so justly and feelingly reprobated, would then be everywhere rased to the foundations; the poor would be restored to their domestic comforts, and contributing millions to an useless and devouring taxation, would be enabled to relieve the public as they became themselves relieved.—When by such a new system of laws, as wise and protective as the present is absurd and oppressive, the mites of almost the poorest came to be dropped into the boxes of so blessed an institution throughout every district in your country, pauperism would soon entirely disappear.—It often indeed exists in its most wretched and degraded forms, when

what can be saved amongst the lower classes, instead of being deposited *weekly*, for their own benefit, is consumed *nightly*, in haunts where liquid fire is prepared for them, utterly destroying their constitutions, and disqualifying them from all the duties of good husbands, or fathers, or subjects, not one of which an habitual drunkard was ever yet qualified to fulfil.

"But the subject of your pauperism is far from being finished.—Humanity cannot pronounce that the poor shall receive no alms when they can work, *if there be no work for them.*—Every thing therefore you have said regarding those oppressive burthens, in the whole of which I have just concurred with you, must go completely for nothing, and be without any possible remedy until this radical and destructive defect in your present condition is removed.

"Your laws for the support of the poor were made in a *sound* and *wholesome* state of your country, when it was a just *legal presumption*,

tion, that every man who was able and willing to work might find employment; but that is *not the case now*, and the evil may be most distinctly traced to your great taxation, and to an erroneous policy, which, by depressing agriculture, has depressed every thing else.—To use the words of a great poet of England, 'We track the felon home.'—This most important subject lies within the narrowest compass, and may be summed up in a word.—Indeed, you have almost exhausted it yourself, and I have little that is my own to offer.

"The mischief began in the mistaken system you adopted for the importation of foreign grain; but however your government might have been perplexed and almost overborne on the first consideration of the subject, I cannot anticipate that it will suffer such a monstrous evil to continue.—It must surely see that the profits of a few importing merchants, engaged in speculations of this description, can never circulate with the same advantage as if the same

capital were flowing in various channels as a kind of *irrigation* of wealth through every nook and corner of your island, giving *universal* spirit to agriculture, and employment to millions who must become national burthens when it declines.

"You will now, of course, ask for *the remedies*, which appear to me as obvious as the evils to which they are to be applied.—You must not expect that remedial effects can be sudden, when the causes of your difficulties are considered; but if they are wisely adopted and firmly persevered in, I WILL WARRANT THE RESULT.

"The SOIL, then, of every country, and the bringing to the *utmost perfection* its various productions, are the foundations of all wealth and prosperity.—You might as well hope to see the human body in active motion when palsy had reached the heart, or a tree flourishing after its roots were decayed, as expect to see manufactures, or arts, or industry of any description pro-

progressive, when *agriculture* has declined.—In an island like Armata, where the earth and the climate are so propitious, no man ought to be able to set his foot upon the ground, except upon the public roads, or the streets of cities, without treading upon human sustenance; and it ought to be a fundamental policy to bring your *entire surface* into the best considered use by prudent and appropriate cultivation.—Well-directed bounties, and skilful relaxations of your imposts where they press too severely, might still accomplish this object; and the unnatural state of your country for so long a period most imperiously demands the attempt; as, without some immediate exertion, thousands, perhaps millions of acres, will soon fall back into the desart more rapidly than they were reclaimed.*

"This

* When asked in Armata for my opinions, I gave them to the best of my judgment; but I am far from having such confidence in them as not earnestly to recommend the most attentive consideration of several writers who in some points differ from me, at least in their application to the concerns of

 this

"This retrogression of agriculture would be portentous, if the causes were not obvious.—The lands I principally speak of were not brought into cultivation by a natural course of husbandry, but were *forced* into production at an expense that your markets during war could only repay; and the utmost exertion of unprotected proprietors can never, I fear, redeem them from the consequences of such an improvident course—the State alone can save them, and the public loss will otherwise be ten-fold the amount of the greatest sacrifice which need be made to prevent returning barrenness from desolating your land.

"It is not MONEY that government could be asked for, but, as I have just said, the skilful management of revenue, and an unremitting attention in her legislature to the *smaller* springs of

this country, from which I had been long absent. Dr. Crombie, of Greenwich, has taken a very enlightened view of the subject in three Letters on the present State of our Agricultural Interest. Every day, indeed, produces useful publications on this most important branch of public œconomy.

national

national œconomy, which are not examined or thought of when the body politic is in a rude state of health,—the science of agriculture is by no means at its height; and in the almost miraculous advance of chemistry, new means may be found, from the concentration of known composts and the discovery of new, to lessen the cost of culture, and to increase its returns.—But here again your revenue stalks like a ghost across my path whichever way I turn; as otherwise you have a superior unbounded source of improvement trodden under your very feet, and cast as refuse into your rivers, beyond all that chemistry is ever likely to discover.—You have *salt*, you say, in endless abundance, but your *necessity* turns it into *money*, even to forty times its value, instead of spreading it abroad for various uses, to rise up in property which no money could purchase.—After thus taxing to the very bone this life's blood of your people, why, to be consistent, do you not bind up by law their veins and arteries to prevent circulation?—Do you know what salt alone would do for you it

it were not seized upon as revenue and clung to perhaps as a plank which you cannot quit in your distress?—I will speak of its *other* uses hereafter; but can you be so ignorant as not to know, that by taking the tax upon it *directly as money*, you rob yourselves of fifty times its amount in the productions of your soil, in your fisheries and manufactures, and in the universal prosperity of the country?

"LIME, which has caused to start into life the most inert and sterile parts of Great Britain, is just nothing as a manure when compared with salt, which differs from it, besides, in two remarkable qualities, decisive of its superior value.—Lime, and I believe all other known composts, are powerful only according to the quantities in which they are used, whereas salt, to be useful, must be sparingly employed; it *corrupts* vegetable substances when mixed with them in *small quantities*, but *preserves* them when it *predominates in the mass*.—It is needless therefore to add, that independently of its comparative

tive lightness, the expense both of the article and its carriage must be very greatly diminished. Yet you rob the mother of your people of this food which indulgent nature has cast into her lap, sufficient, as you will see hereafter, to feed all her children, even if their numbers were doubled.

"Nothing indeed can so clearly expose the infinite danger of public profusion, as the necessity it imposes upon almost all governments, of direct taxation upon articles of universal and indispensable consumption: such revenues are undoubtedly always *great*, and, in moderation, are therefore the best; but when they are pushed beyond the mark, which an enlightened view of the whole concerns of a country would make manifest to a great statesman, the advantages obtained are countervailed and become nothing; because they dry up other sources of wealth and improvement which would carry even greater burthens, whilst the national prosperity was preserved.

"To

"To continue this momentous subject, be assured that the very being of your country, *above all at this moment*, depends upon your making *your own soil* support your most extended population, and that to consider population as an evil, is to be wiser than God, who, in your earth as in mine, commanded man to increase and multiply, and who, I am persuaded, throughout all creation, has ordained that nothing should go backward or stand still.

"If there were no other proof of the preeminence of agriculture, let it be remembered that it is the greatest source of labour, and in a proportion little understood, because it not only comprehends the direct and immediate labour upon its surface and in its bowels, but the labour also of various arts and manufactures, whose raw materials it produces.—LABOUR, indeed, is the salt of the earth, the preserver and nourisher of all things—the curse that man should eat his bread with the sweat of his brow, was mercifully repealed in the very moment it was pro-

pronounced, and was changed even into a blessing—Labour gave him bread, and a comfort along with it, which nothing like labour can bestow. If the earth produced spontaneously, it might be a paradise for angels, but no habitation for beings formed like ourselves; without labour, what could support or adorn the whole fabric of society?—It would vanish like an enchantment.

"The curse of DEATH was also revoked, not only by the promise of immortal life hereafter, but to deliver man at the very moment from the barrenness of the earth that was cursed.—Without death, he might have toiled and sweated, but the ground would have yielded nothing; death therefore was ordained to revolve with life in a mysterious and fructifying circle.—The corruption of all created things returning into the bosom of nature, brings them back again to reward the industry of man. Every animal that dies; all vegetables, and they have lives also, every substance which dissolves and becomes offensive,

offensive, every heterogeneous mixture, which upon the surface would stagnate and become malignant, brought back by human wisdom into their allotted stations, become the future parents of a renovated world.

"Can we suppose then that God has performed those stupendous miracles for nothing? When our Scripture tells us that man was formed from the dust of the earth, it should not perhaps be taken in a sense *too literal*—to the Almighty, matter was not necessary for his creation, though his frame was to be *material*—it may mean that he could live only by the earth, and was to return to it after death.

"The first national object then is to FEED your own people, AND TO FIND EMPLOYMENT FOR THEM ALL. On such a subject you cannot expect details, nor can you need them.—In a country whose splendid history you have passed along like a kind of fairy tale before me, your means must be infinite.—You have not only the richest

est and most various surface to work upon, but subterranean treasures, inexhaustible and unequalled; you have still to make new roads and railways, and canals, and facilities of yet undiscovered descriptions, for the transport of their productions, which should overspread your soil as if there were a net-work thrown over it.—The carriage of manure, of materials for building, and of all articles of traffic, or provisions, are heavy taxes upon the raw materials, and by every possible means should be diminished; an observation equally applying to every species of human labour, whether employed upon the earth or in arts and manufactures, which should be curtailed and lessened not only by the utmost stretch of accidental inventions, but should be drawn out and rewarded and consecrated by the state.

"This may be thought a paradox whilst the poor are calling out every where for employment; but be assured no greater delusion ever existed than that the matchless ingenuity of your people, in the construction of mechanical aids,

aids, can in any possible instance be an evil. I was shocked, indeed, to hear of outrages, which I should have expected only to have existed amongst the very dregs of a civilized people. The mistaken or rather the *delirious* incitement, is when numbers are unemployed; but how many more would be without employment, or rather how many thousands, and tens and hundreds of thousands would be starving, if the machinery they attack were overthrown? In the present condition of your country you could not send a single bale of your manufactures into a foreign market, if they were to be worked up only by manual labour, and *then* not only the turbulent destroyers, but the most diligent of your people must perish. Having been blessed with religious parents, my mind was directed, from my earliest youth, to contemplate the benevolent dispensations of an offended God; and in nothing have they inspired a more constant and grateful admiration than that when the first and greatest of his works had been cast down for disobedience into the most forlorn and helpless

helpless condition, he should not only be gifted to subdue to his use and dominion all inferior things, but that, fashioned after the image of Heaven, he should be enabled to scan its most distant worlds, and to augment his own strength in mitigation of his appointed labour, by engines so tremendously powerful as would crush, with a single stroke, his weak frame to atoms, whilst they form, under his directing skill, the smallest and most delicate things for the uses and ornaments of the world.

" You must beat down those insane outrages by the whole strength and vigour of your laws. Select the *guiltiest* for condign punishment; *but let no such guilt be spared.*"

Morven here expressed his highest satisfaction. Taking me by the hand, he assured me that the very *existence* of Armata depended upon the most unremitting execution of the laws in this respect; and I was glad to find that her government had acted with the greatest promp-

titude and firmness in stigmatizing and punishing this opprobrium of a civilized world.

As I was preparing to finish the little I had to say to him, he desired we might pause a moment, that what had been *last* said might be the better remembered; and opening the door, which led to the adjoining apartment, I found a supper of twelve covers prepared for us, and a mixed company of men and women, apparently most accomplished; but being then an utter stranger to the language, I shall postpone all my observations upon Armatian society till I have to speak hereafter of the manners and amusements of the capital; yet I cannot pass over that the women I saw were most beautiful, several of them singing delightfully, and that, from their address and manner of speaking, it was well, perhaps, for my repose, that I could not understand what they said.—The reader, indeed, will have to condole with me *hereafter* that I ever became more susceptible.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XIII.

In which the Author concludes his Opinion upon the State and Condition of Armata.

When Morven visited me next morning, he expressed his impatience to hear what had been left unfinished the night before; and I then proceeded as follows:—

"The more I reflect upon every part of your statement, the more I am convinced that a grand system of well directed industry, supported at once by your government and people, would give an entire new face to your country; but it cannot be even begun without re-casting the laws which regulate the importations of what your own soil could produce. I am sensible that this subject is complicated in the details, and that I cannot be qualified to deal with them; but a SOUND PRINCIPLE gives a sure direction throughout all the branches of

political œconomy. Until you come into the full enjoyment of what wisdom is sure to bestow, you must, of course, have temporary arrangements according to circumstances, that provisions may be always obtained at *steady* and *reasonable* rates; but, *in the meantime*, your undoubted policy is UNIVERSAL CULTIVATION, and when that is accomplished, or so far advanced as to feed your people, not a blade or seed, or grain of any description, ought to be permitted to enter the ports of your country, *times of famine or scarcity excepted;* and even then the quantity should be measured by the decision of some high and responsible tribunal, to secure unfluctuating prices, not so *high* as to distress the poor, nor so *low* as to throw them out of bread, when the landholders, who employ them, are undersold by general and jobbing importations.

"To speak plainly—It is my clear opinion that this cannot be accomplished in the present state of things, except by *protecting duties*, which

which should be so regulated as to ensure importation, without enabling it to overpower the agriculture of your own country.

"It would be speaking at random to be more particular in concerns so new to me, but the principle is universal. Importations of natural productions may *occasionally* be politic, because manufactures are often taken in return; but advantages may be purchased *too dearly*, and no price can be more ruinous than when foreign harvests have an injurious interference with the natural productions of any nation.

"To avoid this evil, affecting alike manufactures and agriculture, *protecting duties* have been constantly resorted to by all governments, and I cannot even conceive the danger of adopting them upon the present occasion, nor the difficulty of settling their amounts.—After fixing a proper standard, you might *then* keep up your present warehousing system, that you might always have a supply; securing to the

importer a fair prospect of profit, without which he would not import, but still keeping him in subordination to your own cultivators, without which your own soil will infallibly be neglected.—This system, however, need be but temporary, like parental duties towards an infant until his growth and strength are completed; because, to say that notwithstanding the most politic protections and bounties, such a country as you have described to me will be found unequal *in the end* to the support of its own population, or that provisions are likely to be dearer in proportion as your whole surface is brought into well-directed cultivation, are propositions which no man in England, who dreaded the restraints of a mad-house, would venture to advance.

"Anticipating, therefore, that a more protective system will now be speedily adopted, I may revert with some hope to the condition of your poor. When agriculture shall have revived, and with it the labour which is inseparable from its prosperity, the ancient *legal presumption*,

presumption, that men who can work may find employment, will revive also; and you may *then*, without inhumanity or injustice act up to, or even re-enact your ancient laws which limit the objects of relief to those whose activities, from age, or from disease, or in short from any disabling infirmities, have been destroyed. I know nothing, of course, of your various districts or of the burthens imposed upon them, but I should not be at all surprized if, from the very evils we have been discussing, the rates should be found to be greater in the agricultural than in the manufacturing departments; because your husbandmen and country servants, of all descriptions, when employed upon lower wages or discharged from employment, would fall of course as burthens upon the places where their families were settled; but on the renovation of agriculture the very reverse of this would immediately succeed, and the rates in these places would not only be the lowest, but would lead to universal reductions, because, as labour increased and extended, wages would extend

and increase in proportion, the whole of which would circulate amongst your manufacturers and traders, who lost their best customers when agriculture declined.

"You are not, perhaps, aware of the proportional ascendancy of land over other sources of wealth and employment.—But speaking generally, and not from any positive calculation, a tax upon property in England would bear upon land and houses, as opposed to trades and manufactures, in the proportion of above *seven* to *three;* and in the numbers of actual contributors of above *four* to *two.*—This disproportion marks besides only the pre-eminence of agriculture in the ordinary condition of a nation; but if England were in your exhausted condition, and were called upon for a mighty exertion, you would see how her genius would triumph.—When pressed down with a weight which threatened destruction, her energies would rebound, and raise her as much higher than her former elevation, as difficulties appeared to

to sink her beneath it.—It is in adversity only, that nations, like individuals, can be estimated; like ships, you can know nothing of them in a harbour; you must try them in the storm, and prove them by the weather that they make.—ENGLAND, I am sure,—(but it is a romance so to speak of her, as in a state she can never be brought to)—ENGLAND would begin by a grand systematic benevolence to the distressed—but her wisdom would inform her that this humane deliverance would be only ruin to her people, if not *immediately* followed up by a system which would enable them to support themselves; and, remembering the efforts she had made for other nations, which were comparatively unburthened, she would regulate all her concerns with them upon a just scale, and by well-considered imposts, until she could cherish all her children in her own bosom, by making her fertile soil repay protected cultivation, neither mocking the husbandman by the ruinous vibrations of markets, nor distressing the poor by prices beyond their reach.—When property was thus

put

put into the true road of returning to its value, neither charities nor bounties would be necessary; proprietors would do the rest for themselves—self-interest is the most spirited reformer; capitals would no longer be wanting, when land was the best of all securities; and, to complete the process, she would brush away the cobwebs of fraudulent money-dealers, the most destructive of all the vermin that infest the earth.—Loans, like all other contracts, should either be the objects of unlimited traffic, or the law that constitutes the exception should be strictly maintained.—When a maximum is established for interest, it ought to be rigorously enforced; differences of risk are shallow subterfuges to support annuities, *except in cases where the borrower has no greater estate than for his own life*; because when he has a *full dominion over his property, and offers it as a security*, the resort to a contingency, *which is forced upon him by the lender* to evade the law that would rescind the contract, and punish the extortion, is a gross and impudent fraud, for which

which the usurer should forfeit his character and his money.—Whilst this subterfuge is tolerated, proprietors of land must continue to be exposed to the greatest difficulties, and in its present depressed condition a greater relief is wanting than even the abolition of this destructive imposition. Your government, *in some way or other*, should contrive facilities for loans upon estates, until the storm that now desolates them has passed away.*

" On the subject of your manufactures I have nothing further to add—their prosperity depends upon the unfettered ingenuity of your matchless

* Mr. Curwen is entitled to the gratitude of his country for having brought the alarming defects in the poor laws before parliament.—On my return to England, I was astonished to hear of them, as I had contrasted their excellence with the ruinous condition of Armata in that respect.—Indeed without the most immediate change of system, or rather the firmest adherence to our ancient laws, the Spencean system will be completely accomplished without the aid of the lunatic philanthropists who project the division of property; as *the whole land of England* will very soon come to be divided, not amongst the poor, but amongst those *who chuse to be paupers*, without coming within any of the descriptions of the original statute, which ought *alone* to entitle them to compulsory relief.

people;

stranger, bred in one which has long been the admiration of its own world, and not wishing to see her in any thing surpassed, yet I am obliged in justice to say, that I consider Armata in no respect behind her, except in the state of your finances.—I have not, indeed, been able to trace the smallest defect in any of your institutions, nor in the condition of any of your concerns, that does not come manifestly home to your revenue, which corrupts your government whilst it depresses your people.

"Your energies are still happily undiminished, your industry is unabated, your courage unsubdued, your morals uncorrupted; but you have the same sacrifices, *for a season at least*, to submit to, as an individual may have to make, though with the highest qualifications, if his expenses have gone beyond his estate; and unless you now guard with skill and firmness this *heel of the Achilles*, the result must be fatal.

"Remember always the noble eminence you stand

stand on, and that NO OTHER NATION IS QUALIFIED TO TAKE YOUR PLACE. In the name of God, then, let this awful but animating consideration inspire you—Be firm in your resolves—Be patient under temporary privations—Be obedient to your government, and preserve your greatness by the wisdom which made you great."

I now felt myself exhausted in my weak condition, by an exertion to which I fear my readers may have thought, all along, my mind as much as my body was unequal, but my generous protector was satisfied, and as night was coming on, he left me again to my rest.

CHAPTER XIV.

The Author expresses his wish to visit the Capital of Armata, but first proceeds to one of her great Sea Ports.

WHEN Morven came next morning into my apartment, I found myself so much recovered from my fatigue and the bruises I had suffered amongst the rocks, that I told him I was ready to attend him any where, and was full of impatience to see, in all its parts, so noble a country as he had described; particularly its CAPITAL, of which he had as yet said nothing in his general and more important history.

He seemed highly pleased with my proposal, and said he would send for his son to accompany me, whose youth and modern manners made him a much fitter companion for such an expedition than himself.

The capital, he said, would fill me with admiration

admiration and wonder, as the city of SWALOAL was, beyond all question, the greatest, the richest and the most illustrious in that world. I was struck with the *name* as he pronounced it, which he had not mentioned before; and although I well remembered the blunder which, from the habits of association, I had before made in the etymology of Armata, yet I could not help inquiring why this metropolis had obtained so singular an appellation. Morven, in answer, said, that he was himself no etymologist or antiquary, and could only inform me that SWALOAL was a word in the Armatian language, signifying the city long known by that name. I smiled at this *luminous explanation*, saying, it reminded me of an anecdote of our George the Second, who, being a foreigner, asked one of the lords of his bed-chamber the meaning of the English word *bespatter*; to which his lordship, seemingly much pleased with the easy task imposed upon him, assured the king that he could not have chosen a word whose signification was plainer, or more familiar

 —" It

people; but you ought to remember that their condition is not the same as when you monopolized the commerce of your world, and that at an enormous expense which leans most heavily upon them, you have set up foreign markets to rival them. The details of this mighty concern is the office of your statesmen, and I trust will be wisely considered. You have said that the improvement of your fisheries had not reached its height.—This is the moment to reach it by the most unremitting exertions.—Neither the sea nor the land can have been enjoyed to the full, whilst your population is under difficulties for support.—There are no doubt with you, as with us, various roots of cheap and easy culture, which though at once prolific and nutritious, are not by themselves inviting to the appetite, nor sufficient for a life of labour, without a mixture of animal food.—In times of [illegible], therefore, when the plough may fail [illegible]ell ploughed ocean would be a constant refu[illegible]-You can there have no unpropitious seed-times, nor uncertain harvests;—tempests could only disperse the reapers for a short season, and

and the crop would always remain undamaged in a boundless extent.—Even in England the system of supply is far from being perfect; it is brought to an astonishing height for the luxuries of London, yet is still defective in the more momentous department of general and cheap distribution; but, depend upon it, *our* legislature will never rest till this great object is accomplished.

"With *you*, I fear, there is a fatal bar to improvement.—Be assured every attempt towards it must be abortive, whilst you keep up your duty upon salt; because the allowances you make to those who are engaged in fisheries, when guarded by the necessary forms to prevent frauds upon so important a revenue, render them of no use whatsoever, and fish can never be made a support for an inland population in their natural state.—Is it not, then, the height of folly to have resort to foreign fisheries at an immense distance, when other nations leave their own coasts and come almost into your harbours, from the superior abundance of your seas?—

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They take your finest fish—they cure them with your own salt, the best in all your world, which is duty-free when exported; they maintain their people in comfort, whilst your's are everywhere starving, and prosper by a trade out of which you might drive all nations before you, securing your maritime greatness, whilst you increased your internal strength.—In the creeks and harbours of all countries, the smaller fish are always so numerous, that they are used for manure in quantities that almost exceed belief.—Is it certain that with the use of salt they might not be applied also to purposes more useful, and instead of being entirely cast out in large masses to fructify by corruption, be preserved from it by chemical skill, and be devoted to the subsistence of mankind?

"Another momentous subject still more, if possible, demands your attention, and with that I shall conclude.—One of the first sentences you uttered to me, after snatching me from the grave, made an impression upon me which I shall carry there hereafter. You said that this highly-

highly-favoured island had been the chosen instrument of Divine dispensation, and that if she deserted or slumbered upon her post, she would be relieved and punished—Beware that this penal moment is not at hand.—Why do you now permit despotism and fanaticism to palsy the freedom of the rising word, when your duty and your interest are struggling for precedency to crush them at a blow?—If that vast continent were governed according to the humane maxims of civilized nations, you would have no right to wrest the sceptre out of hands however unworthy to wield it; but since you have been placed for so many ages in the high post of honour for the advancement of human happiness, you ought to suffer no other nation to run on before you in the rescue of suffering millions from famine, dungeons, and the sword.—Recollect your eulogium upon the triumphs of chemistry and mechanics:—apply them to the mines and other productions of those vast regions; not as robbers or task-masters, but in the liberal spirit of commerce with their people,

by

by which you might resuscitate your own country whilst you were breathing new life into theirs."

The noble minded Morven seemed much pleased and affected, and spoke as follows, but in a voice so subdued as if he almost wished not to be heard:

"There are difficulties in the way of what you propose so warmly.—The project your honest zeal has suggested might kindle a new war throughout our whole world, which might, in the end, be destructive of the happiness and freedom you justly hold so sacred.—There are many desirable objects of policy that are not within our immediate reach, and which we must wait Heaven's own time to see accomplished; but the principle should be consecrated, and the occasion closely watched for its earliest application."

"Not a moment," I answered, "should ever be

be lost in any thing we have to do, when we are sure we are in the right; there is no time but *the present* for the performance of a practicable moral duty: ENGLAND, in such a cause, would set at nought all the nations of the old world if the new one invoked her assistance. Such a great work could not be begun prematurely.—If the sun stood still of old in the camp of the Israelites, it would now rush to the west with increased velocity and lustre, to shine on the British standard, if it stood planted even for a moment in the night.*

"I have now finished all I have to observe upon the condition of your sublime country.—Looking at it with the eager curiosity of a

* It may be proper here to inform the reader, that when it is six in the morning in Armata, it is midnight in the new world alluded to, because this twin planet with the earth revolves also round its axis from west to east in twenty-four hours; and Armata being eastward of the new world, nearly ninety degrees of longitude, it follows as above-mentioned, that when it is six in the morning in Armata it must be midnight in the new world; every 15 degrees of a great circle of 360 being equal to *an hour of time;* 15 times 24 being 360.

—"It is just, Sire," he said, "as if YOUR MAJESTY were to *bespatter* ME, or as if I were to *bespatter* YOUR MAJESTY."

Morven now smiled *in his turn;* and I observed to him that nothing was often more unsatisfactory than the derivations of words of all descriptions; though the subject was undoubtedly interesting, and frequently threw great light upon ancient history, but SOMETIMES *no light at all;* as was the case, I thought, with our famous city of London, which could never have had its name from King Lud, though so often supposed; because King Lud reigned before the time that Julius Cæsar was in Britain, who, nevertheless, called it in his Commentaries the city of the Trinobants, which he could not well have done if it had *so recently* received its name from a prince in the island; Cæsar's first landing being, I believe, in the time of Cassibalaunus, who was brother to Lud, and succeeded him; neither could the city have been called London from Lud's *Town*—town

not

not being a British but a Saxon word; and therefore, if that had been its true derivation, it would have been called *Caer* Lud, and not Lud's Town—But it is still more strange how it should have been called Londinum, by Tacitus, as that was only its *Latin* name after it was called London; an appellation which it never had in the time of the Britons, nor until the Saxon æra, when it received the name of Lund*en*, but with a termination then bestowed upon all well-fenced places, or such as had forts or castles—viz. *Lundenburg* and *Lunden Ceaster*, This name of Lunden was afterwards changed to LONDON, neither of them being at all in honour of King Lud, but adopted by the Saxons from the metropolitan city of Lund*en*, in *Scone-land* or *Sconia, then* a place of great traffic in the eastern part of Germany. The further, indeed, we trace the connection with King Lud, *the more it will fail us;* as LUDGATE could never be from thence, GATE not being British; and, what is still stronger, *Ludgate* was formerly LEODGATE; LEOD, signifying in Saxon,

folk or people, and the name of *Leodgate*, therefore, *with all due submission to King Lud*, was given to this great public passage, as the folk's gate or entrance, the *portum populi* in that quarter of the city."

"You quite overpower me with your learning," said Morven; "our great city, like London, has also changed its names and terminations, but as to the reason of those changes I cannot even hazard a conjecture.—In very ancient times it was styled only SWALO, afterwards SWALOMOR, and in succeeding periods SWALOUP, and SWALODUN, or SUALODOWN; but, for a century at least, it has been universally known by the name of SWALOAL."—I asked here with some impatience, whether those *idem sonans* terminations had the significations as in our language; and on his answering *in the negative*, I was still more puzzled.—"None of those terminations," he added, "whether taken by themselves, or used only as adjuncts, have the most distant approach to the meaning which, even

even adopting your English orthography, we should annex to them, *nor indeed any meanings at all;* but the monosyllables *Out* and *In*, and more so when used in the plural, as in Armata, are two of the most significant words in its whole language, and *Outs* and *Ins* are therefore as opposite as the two poles which distinguish the hemisphere of both our planets." This unexpected conclusion threw me still more wide of *all application to our language or to ourselves.*

Morven now said he had dispatched a messenger for his son, that we might settle the plan of our journey; and in a few hours he arrived in a very handsome carriage, which I shall not describe at present, as it rather belongs to my description of the capital hereafter. He was a very handsome young man, highly accomplished, as I understood, according to the fashions of his day, and so full of spirits and life, that he had not been two minutes in the room, nor made any inquiries concerning me,

when

when he seemed most impatient that we should go some where else, saying that the great ships were paying off, and that he would drive me down to the town near which I had been wrecked. I endeavoured to excuse myself, not being yet provided with the dress of the country, nor indeed with any other than that in which I had buffeted the waves and thumped against the rocks; but he would not hear of such an objection.—" Sailors," he said, " went round and round the world, and saw people by turns in all dresses, and whole nations without any dresses at all,—that the admiral was his friend, and would be happy to see us."—He said all this in perfectly good English, which he had learned from his father and grandfather, and seemed so amiable and good natured that I thought it best not to refuse him, and we drove off immediately, but not until he had acquainted Morven that we should return to supper, when he hoped we should have music, and that he should set out with me for Swaloal next morning as soon as it was light.

On

On approaching the port, I observed a great alteration—the stately ships I had seen in full equipment, being now ranged as a kind of hulks for miles together; so that I could not help asking why so grand a fleet had been dismantled, and the answer was a proud one for Armata:

"Because the fleets of our world," he said, are lying dismantled by their sides—the ocean, which re-echoed through all its caves with the thunder of foreign navies, is now silent as the grave—their cannon are all spiked or upon our battlements, and their flags are the ornaments of our halls:—yonder, (pointing to an immense number at a distance,) yonder are their brave crews, delivered from all their toils."

When we got into the town, I was surprized to see that by far the greater part of them were hale, robust men, in the highest state of comeliness and health, though most of them had been ten or twelve years at sea, without ever setting foot upon the land, and many of them much longer.

longer.—Every one of them had his lass, decked out with a profusion of ribbons of the same colour as in her sailor's hat.—They were full of glee, and full of money, the *whole of which*, I was told, must, according to an immemorial and inexorable custom, be spent among the ladies *in one day*, and indeed they seemed most alert in observing it, as they were parading the streets with music, and shops and places of entertainment of every description gaped wide open to receive them.—I was invited to dine with their officers, where I met the most pleasant men I had ever conversed with.—The table was not quite large enough for us all, but they would hear of no difficulties, and as some of them had left an arm or a leg behind them, we were able (to use a seaman's phrase) to stow the closer.—They had all of them the same frank, gentleman-like manners, which distinguish our most accomplished countrymen; but there was something, at the same time, in their aspect, which gave me an idea of how unmoved they must have stood amidst unexampled difficulties and dangers.

gers.—Wishing that nothing in such noble beings should be imperfect, I said to their commander, "Why don't you somehow or other contrive to improve the manners and conduct of your seamen, who are now filling your streets with noise and confusion amidst their women?" "You might as well ask me," answered this great officer, "why God has not made an elephant like an ape; or why he has fashioned all things to fill their alloted stations.—Our sailor of Armata is an animal non-descript, and must *in nothing be changed or touched.*—I am no politician.—You may reform parliament for any thing I care, but don't attempt to reform *our sailor.*—The love of woman is his distinguishing feature, he lavishes every thing upon her, and returns to sea when his money is spent; without this passion, even in its excess, our ships would be receptacles of abomination and horror.—The sexes are the elements of the world; there is male and female in every tree and plant down to the grass we tread upon; and you might as well complain, that their farinas mixed with one another

another in the upland country, as condemn the transient amours of our seamen upon the shore. I respect as much as any man the sanctities of marriage, and acknowledge its usefulness in the social world; but you must not think of contending too roughly with the ancient characteristics of mankind.—You may scour an old coin to make it legible; but if you go on scouring, it will be *no coin at all.*"

"I could only say in reply to all this, that I was the last man in the world to object to the admiration of women, and that what he had said of its usefulness to the inhabitants of ships was quite unanswerable; but that no human beings could go beyond our English sailors, who nevertheless were most sedate and considerate, generally married, and remarkable for the parsimonious care of their money, most of them keeping regular accounts with some banker or slop-seller whilst they were at sea."—"If that be so," said Morven, "*Your* sailors could never fight like *ours.*"—I took fire at this, (the only excuse

excuse perhaps for what follows)—" A British sailor," I replied, (trembling with indignation,) " a British sailor, Sir, would fight with the devil, and in the service of his country would enter hell itself to seek him out."—The admiral, whose jealous feelings did not extend to another world, shook hands with me most heartily, and after a few more bottles, I took my leave.

My young companion at the same time called for his carriage, and we set out by moon-light on our return. As we went along, he asked me, " how I had— * * *

saying it was so obliterated by the sea water in my shipwreck homewards, as not to be at all legible. I must now therefore abruptly, and most unwillingly, close my publication, at least for the present; earnestly intreating the indulgence of the public to refer to the Postscript for a fuller explanation of my situation, and of the extreme difficulty I cannot but feel in submitting to them what is now published in so unsatisfactory and mutilated a state.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

I HAVE felt great difficulty in consenting to publish, *at present*, what is now offered to the world.—I was aware that, after having described in all its details so extraordinary a passage to an unknown world, it could not but give an air of fable to the whole of it, to be seen sallying forth from Mr. Murray's in Albemarle-street, without a single word having been said of the means by which I got back again to the earth. The scale was however turned in favour of immediate publication.—The loss of my manuscript, when I was shipwrecked in Ireland on my homeward voyage, was *irretrievable*, and I had no choice left after my return to England, but to publish *at once* what remained of it, or to let curiosity languish, or perhaps be considered as an impostor.—There was another inducement to pursue this course.—If the public shall take no interest in the part now before it, the other

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had far better be suppressed; and, on the other hand, if it should be called for by those who have read the first, it will give fresh spirit to a composition which must now be extremely difficult.

If I could have saved the rest of my manuscript amongst the breakers, which I should have done, if, like the part preserved, it had been inclosed in leather, I should have trusted without fear to my materials, and to the interest they could not but have created when viewed all together; and even amidst all the obstacles I have to contend with, from the part published being only a dull narrative, interspersed with no amusing incidents, I feel some confidence that my work will derive sufficient support from what may be expected in its *sequel*.—An account of the great city of SWALOAL cannot but excite the curiosity of LONDON.

FINIS.

London: Printed by C. Roworth, Bell-yard, Temple-bar.

THE

SECOND PART

OF

ARMATA.

LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1817.

London: Printed by C. Roworth,
Bell-yard, Temple-bar.

PREFACE

TO THE

SECOND PART.

THE history of this *Second* Volume is a very short one—The *First*, as my readers must remember, was suddenly interrupted by sea damage to the manuscript, and all that was left of it remained, until about a fortnight ago, in a seemingly irrecoverable state; when it happened that a poor man, of a most squalid appearance, came into my apartment to ask for a morsel of bread. He was worn to a shadow, and held in his trembling emaciated hand a small blue bottle.—"My father," he said, "lived for many years in a garret at Knightsbridge, where he was always to be found amongst his phials and crucibles, mixing together many offensive ingredients, but what they were I know not.—When he was at

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the point of death, he gave me this bottle, saying, I might make money of it, but *how* he did not tell me, as he instantly expired.—This is my honest case, and I have not a single farthing to support me, nor any thing upon earth to give me comfort."

There being so many impostures practised in London, I could scarcely believe this story, but I said to the poor man, that if I could give credit to it, I would endeavour to help him.

" Then," said he, looking up to Heaven, " may whatever is in this vessel prove poison and death to me, if I do not speak the truth;"—and to give emphasis, I suppose, to his faultering voice, as from weakness he could scarcely stand upright, he struck it with violence upon the table, when it broke all to pieces, and the liquor ran over my papers which lay there as much doomed to the flames as any widow in Hindostan.

Our mutual surprize may be better imagined than

than described, when I inform the reader that every word of the writing touched by it became, in an instant, as bright as if it had been an illuminated parchment for a lord mayor on his quitting office.—I preserved what remained in the bottle, which was analysed by a celebrated chemist, and after my manuscript had been restored by a fresh preparation of it, I took measures to secure the discovery by a patent; and the poor creature has been already offered above 200*l.* for the secret, but five times that sum will never purchase it, as it has since been applied to decayed pictures with almost incredible effect.

The chapter of accidents has always appeared to me the most curious one in the book of our lives, and this wretched man may well think so. —*His* fortune was suddenly made, whilst neither *myself*, *nor any others*, derived the smallest benefit or advantage from so extraordinary a chance.—I had positively resolved never to retrace my thoughts, and but for this strange cir-

 cumstance,

cumstance, I should have been saved the great trouble of copying, for printing, what I had written, and the public the still greater one of reading it.

I am sensible, indeed, that my remarks are much too short and general, when their objects are considered, and that many of a more interesting nature are omitted; but the truth is, that though I saw enough in Armata to have filled many volumes, I could take no interest in any thing except the very little that had some kind of bearing upon the condition of my country; nor did I write a line but from a desire to make us feel more deeply the value of our admirable institutions, to warn us against the abuses to which the wisest are subject, and to correct a very few mistakes which prevent our manners from being perfect.

In what relates to *the last*, I might have given a *powerful* interest to my *foreign* adventures, by ill-natured allusions *at home;* but as it was my wish

wish to reform our manners, it would have been strangely inconsistent to excite an appetite for slander.—The reader will not therefore find a single sentence that can be tortured into a defamatory application; *and I publish this even in the Preface, though it may ruin the sale of my book.*

General remarks upon laws and government cannot be thought to be within the scope of this forbearance; national councils may be mistaken and even disastrous, though their authors may be intelligent and upright.—Neither should the public interests be compromised by silence when the publication of truth may be useful; but there is not a word *even upon such subjects,* that can be construed into *personal reproach!*

Although I have to thank the public for a more favourable reception of what has been already published than it was at all entitled to command, yet I cannot but be severely mortified to find that it is generally thought to be

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a romance, and that I am set down as a writer who, for some reason or other, had adopted the fiction of *another world,* to convey some opinions regarding *his own;* a notion which has naturally enough gained ground by the consideration that many things may be put together under a mask of this description, which in a real and grave history it would not be so easy to write.

This is all I have to say, since I cannot be duly sworn as a witness for myself; but I frequently smile when I think of the figure that many people will make very shortly, when the Admiralty shall have sanctioned my applications, and when taxes have been raised for my next voyage, which *unbelievers* as well as believers must pay.—These are *the ways and means* which can alone give credit to my work.

I am not a candidate for literary reputation, and shall bow with submission to our established critics, because their judgments have, for a long time,

time, been sanctioned by general consent, evinced by the reception of their works.—They are, for the most part, men of talents and learning, and seem never to forget, that an enlightened people are critics over themselves.—This is the only shape in which the press ought to submit to censorship, and it has greatly contributed to the advancement of literature in Great Britain; it prevents us from mispending our time and our money upon useless or mischievous publications, *and serves as a sample before we buy.* Authors, whatever may be their genius or acquirements, *are the worst possible judges of their own works,* and the great masters of criticism, aware that *for the same reason* they are subject to error, are remarkable for the candour with which they examine publications at all entitled to respect. There are some minor critics, however, who cannot be taught this reserve; but as in the first instance it would neither be just nor prudent for an author to defend himself against criticism, so in the *last* it would be *inhuman.*—An insect upon the most polished marble,

marble, not seeing the structure, but feeling through the minuteness of his organs, that the surface is not even, most naturally magnifies defects; but would a statuary kill him on that account, or a humane naturalist impale him for the discovery of his tribe?

ARMATA.

(CONTINUED.)

By referring to the part already published, it will be seen that, from damage to the remaining manuscript by sea-water, when I was ship-wrecked on the coast of Ireland, in my voyage homeward, it ended abruptly thus—

My young companion at the same time called for his carriage, and we set out by moonlight, on our return. As we went along, he asked me how I had * * * * * *

It may be proper, therefore, to reprint this unfinished sentence, and the Continuation will then begin as follows:

CHAPTER I.

Containing almost nothing.

My young companion at the same time called for his carriage, and we set out by moon-light, on our return. As we went along, he asked me how I had been amused—a question I declined answering, until I could find words to express all the delightful recollections and sympathies of my earliest days—Indeed when I looked down on the ocean which now smiled upon us with the pale lustre of reflected light, the thoughts of home rushed upon my mind so intensely, that without thinking any more of my companion, nor even recollecting his existence, though he was close by my side, I could not help exclaiming, "Oh, England, England!—if ever I might but behold your white cliffs again, I could sit upon the highest of them, and gaze upon your world of waters for ever. Dully uniform to the *eye* is its vast expanse, but, to

the *mind*, infinitely various—How profound are its caverns which no line can reach, nor the deepest knowledge account for—unfathomable to the philosopher in his closet, as to the sailor upon its surface! Has it always, as now, so curiously indented the land, or have its boundaries been abridged? If its empire has been contracted, did it retire spontaneously, or did subterranean fire invade it, and plant earth within its domains? From whence is the salt that has for ages preserved it? If the moon raises its floods by attraction on the side nearest her, how do they rise up on the opposite, and why on the equator are they at rest? When its tides are thus lifted up, whatever exalts them, and when furious under the lash of the tempest they threaten our shores with destruction, what is it that commands them to return to their beds and to sleep? When smoothed again for the impatient navigator, what is it which directs his course? Whence is it that rude, inanimate matter, even the unshapen stone we tread upon, derives an intelligence beyond Newton's mind, even

to

to guess at? Does it point steadily to the poles when in the bowels of the earth, and does it only begin to shift and vary when it comes into contact with unsettled and restless man? The Great First Cause is manifest: but what are the principles which govern such marvellous effects? When the philosopher is thus lost, and driven back within the limits of his faculties, the ocean is not less an object of sublime contemplation; we see it then with all its roaring multitude of waves obsequious to the command of God for the happiness of man—Without it, though propitiation for sin might, by divine mercy, have been accomplished in Palestine, yet all the humanizing light of the Gospel would have been eclipsed, and its benign influence upon our fallen condition must have been lost; the weary foot of the pilgrim or missionary could never have traversed such remote regions; India could not now be hearing the sacred voice of divine truth, and America, instead of starting up, as it were, at once throughout her United States, into civilized and moral existence, might, for ages to

come, have been a trackless desert, the forlorn abode of uncultivated life! May the East, then, and the West, from the rising to the setting of the sun, remember, with eternal gratitude, the blessings that have flowed to them from my beloved country; may they always work upon the pattern she has set them, whatever forms of government may distinguish them; may they bury in oblivion the occasional imperfections which are inseparable from human dominion; and may the Christian standard she has planted amongst the nations be still carried forward to all tongues and people, until they are gathered together at last as a flock under one shepherd, when sin and sorrow shall be at an end!

"If we examine the aids derived from the sea in the progress of society, and the universal comforts which * * * * *"——but here my youthful companion (tired enough, no doubt, of my soliloquy) recalled me to myself, and having no wish or thought but to please me, he shook

shook me gently, as you would awaken an infant, and said to me, with infinite good humour and kindness—" Child of another world, we are just at home, and I must take your plaything from you; but since I see you so bewitched, and carried out of yourself by your first love, we will not leave her so soon as we intended, but pursue the margin, or at least the district of the sea, until we approach nearer to the Capital, which is yet far distant." Here my musings ended as the carriage now drove up to his father's house.

CHAPTER II.

The Author is provided with the Dress of the Country.—With Reflections thereupon.

MORVEN soon advanced with his accustomed kindness to receive me, but my gay companion vehemently objected to alighting; saying, he could breathe no longer out of SWALOAL, and from what I saw afterwards it was his proper element, as without being *altogether* what *we* should call a Dandy, he was a young man of the most decided fashion in all her higher circles.—It was indeed with the greatest difficulty I could resist being carried on by him in the night, without rest or refreshment, towards this renowned city, but I expressed so strong a desire to appear only in the dress of the country, that he reluctantly agreed to wait till the morning, and good-naturedly underwent, as a kind of penance, what to me was the highest enjoyment—a quiet supper in a most delightful apartment, opening, on each side, to conservatories, fronting a rapid stream

stream running through a fragrant garden, with beautiful women, delicious music, and now and then some excellent old wine, resembling our claret, which, let water-drinkers think as they please, gives a varnish to such a picture, which as they never looked through it they cannot at all comprehend.

As I observed that my young companion took but little share in the conversation, and seemed only to speak as if it were to interrupt the singing, I expressed my surprise to him, when humming a tune at intervals to himself, he said to me apart—" I can enjoy all this, my dear absurd friend, as much as any body, in its *due season;* but in *summer*, nay in its very solstice, which I think is to-morrow, I would much rather be in town in the dirtiest lodging, almost invisible from the dust and rubbish of old buildings pulling down on every side of me, than be seen here amidst the colours and perfumes of all the trees and shrubs which ever blossomed in our world or in yours, or in that

one

one there," (pointing up with his cane to the moon,) " that really looks redder than common, as if she were blushing to see us loitering where we are."

When morning came, his impatient genius suggested to him a most rapid but seemingly indelicate escape from the further delay of my equipment, as he informed me, with the highest glee, that the barber, who had been setting his razors, overhearing our difficulties, had offered a suit of his own never put on, and which, looking at our two persons, he said would fit me to a hair.—He now directed the young man in his own language to fetch them, saying to me in English, " this I can assure you is a most fortunate incident, as I could not have supplied you MYSELF, having nothing here but this coarse wrapper, my only covering in *the wilderness*," (for so I found afterwards he styled the whole country, or rather the whole universe, out of the sound of a celebrated bell in Swaloal, the name of which I have forgotten :) " HERE," he said, " I fol-

follow the custom of nature, the beasts of the field know where they are, and have but one suit."

I was too much disconcerted by this apparently strange behaviour to attempt any interruption of this mortifying dispatch, but when it was quite out of reach I could not help saying, that I hoped I should be pardoned for wishing, if the expense would not be an objection, that I might be furnished with what we called, in England, the dress of *a gentleman*, instead of this young *barber*'s apparel, as I had no doubt there were different degrees in a country which his father had described to me as so highly civilized.

" Undoubtedly," said Cathmor, (for this was the name of my companion,) " there are many degrees among us, more numerous, perhaps, than in any other nation, but there are no distinctions in our ordinary dresses; we have *gentlemen*, as you say you have in England, and, as

as you have just seen, we have *barbers* also; bu
which is the *gentleman* and which is the *barbe*
when you meet them in the streets, it has bee
long impossible for the nicest eye to discove
as our highest nobility and our lowest tradesme
dress exactly like one another: there is perhap
something now and then in air and manner, b
which people *fancy* they may be distinguishe
but in no other way whatsoever.—I expresse
great surprise at this, and said that in *m*
country such a system would be most unpopula
not from any pride in the higher orders, as th
principles of equality, where they could pract
cally or usefully exist, were liberally cherish
in England, but because the *lower classes*, wh
might seem to be exalted, would, with *one voi*
exclaim against it, as injurious to trade, as d
structive to manufactures, and a cruel oppressi
of the immense multitudes who only lived
hourly changing fashions, which circulate sup
fluities amongst the industrious poor; and thou
sumptuary laws were inconsistent with our fi
government, yet an English nobleman wo

be the subject of very unpleasant remarks, who did not maintain his pre-eminence even in his most ordinary appearance, for the circulation of wealth, and the encouragement of ingenious arts. "I could almost swear," he replied, "that you were describing *this very country* even less than *fifty years ago;* as I have heard from my father that, *even in his time*, persons of rank were stupid enough to wear lace and embroidery, and other expensive fabrics, in their daily habits, but we have a damned deal more taste now, and they are never beheld except in the palaces of princes, and when you see them there hereafter, you will think that, notwithstanding their absurd unwieldiness, the whole court was engaged in some distant military expedition, as every one of them wears a sword, and carries a kind of knapsack upon his back.—I am happy, however, the subject has been started, as I should have been much distressed if you had been left for a moment to imagine I had not intended to give you the full benefit of every distinction which a stranger of rank and honour ought to command."

He

He then left me, but first taking me kindly by the hand, and saying he would return as soon as he had got rid of some vulgar people who were waiting to see him.—He had not been gone a moment when the barber re-appeared, but without the clothes: he walked about the room, without taking the smallest notice of me, until upon my friend's return, whom I had apprized of my disappointment, they came up to me together, laughing immoderately and *most obviously at my expense*, Cathmor holding his sides from the convulsion of his mirth, whilst he said, or rather attempted indistinctly to say to me, "My good friend, *this is not the barber*, as you imagined, but one of the highest of our *grandees*, who is come down to visit a relation on board the fleet."—What rendered this sufficiently absurd scene more completely ridiculous, was the return at the same moment of the actual *barber* himself; and when he had laid down his bundle, the nobleman and the shaver were like brothers; no more to be distinguished than twins are even by midwives at their births.

Handy Dandy, which is the justice,
Which is the thief.—

I mean no kind of disrespect to the grandee of Armata or to his DOUBLE, by this *classical* quotation.

At the conclusion of this laughable adventure, Morven, the father, joined us, and resumed the subject of *costume*, but upon a very different principle, saying to me gravely, and as if he was not quite pleased—"I sent for this young man as an agreeable companion, to shew you the face of the country and its fashions, to which I am now quite unequal; but you must think for yourself on many subjects where his youth and inexperience would lead you far astray: the matter which he has been treating as a mere jest, is of great moment, so much so, that I am anxious to hear how it is considered with YOU, where wisdom seems to station every thing in its appointed place."

Flattered not a little by this just remark, and wishing,

wishing, from a national vanity, to keep up the contrast between our countries, I asked him whether they had any robes of magistracy, which in England were found to be so highly useful in impressing the multitude with respect for the administration of government and justice.

" We have them," answered Morven, " even in the lowest of our courts; and not only our judges, but all their inferior officers and attendants, have grave and suitable habits of distinction, but which are cast off the moment the business of our councils and courts are over, when the highest of them are to be seen shouldered and jostled in the crowd with the pick-pockets whose imprisonments have just expired, and with the culprits they have just amerced.—This is by no means an ancient custom amongst us, but one of late years most ignorantly and thoughtlessly introduced: the robes of justice would undoubtedly be uncouth and out of season if worn as *ordinary dresses*, but supreme judges, and indeed magistrates of every description,

tion, above all, when coming immediately and publicly from their tribunals, should have some *suitable distinctions* to point out their stations, and to continue, by habits of association, the reverence inspired by their dignified appearance when administering the government or the laws. If the robes of justice inspire the multitude with *no additional respect for magistrates*, why are they worn AT ALL? and *if they* HAVE *that effect*, why should the illusion be so abruptly overthrown, by exhibiting to the populace the very same men looking perhaps, *from careless habits*, more meanly than thousands who had but a moment before beheld them with salutary fear? This cannot be politic: but the true touchstone to be applied to it is, to ask *how England considers it?*"

I was so much struck with this strange medley of wise policy, and the total disregard of it, and so set a-thinking on the strange differences between our worlds and nations, that I was unable, *in the instant*, to answer him, but I could

not help smiling to myself at the ludicrous idea of all Palace-yard in an uproar at the astonishing sight of our judges coming out of Westminster Hall in such shabby frocks and brown scratches, as would infallibly subject them to be rejected as bail, in their own courts, *even for ten pounds*, though they were to swear themselves black in the face.

"In ENGLAND," I said, *(recovering from my reverie,)*—"in ENGLAND, we view this whole subject in a very different light; we do not regard it as fit to be governed by the idle fashions of the day, but upon principles from which our government may receive substantial support. Distinctions amongst mankind are inevitable, and when left, as in ruder ages, to an unbridled course, are degrading and destructive; but when adjusted by a wise and liberal policy, each order stands (as you have yourself so well expressed it) in its *appointed place*, society then forms a dignified, harmonious phalanx, and, instead of slavish subjection, or contention in the ranks of

freedom, becomes firm and indissoluble, like substances which are held together by an immutable union in their parts; but it should never be forgotten that adhesions of *human contrivance* cannot, like those which are *natural*, be maintained by silent and *invisible* attractions; the social union can neither be produced nor continued without well considered management *constantly kept in view and in action*: the multitude are more governed by visible and permanent distinctions, than by reflections on what is wise or just; and as God does not always ratify by merit, or by mental superiority, the ranks and honours which we wisely nevertheless bestow upon one another, they should be carefully kept up by a kind of ingenious artifice, like that which is so successful at a masquerade or upon the stage. External symbols of superiority, which have been found by experience to be imposing and effectual, cannot be safely let down even in the most apparently insignificant relaxations, because, though not easily shaken if neither abused nor abandoned, *they cannot be resumed at plea-*

sure when cast off. When a person has once unmasked, his character, however well it may have been supported, is irretrievably at an end; and nothing so suddenly beats down the effect of the best theatrical representation, as to go, though but for a moment, behind the scenes. I disapprove, therefore, of your higher orders casting off their distinctions and dressing like their grooms; it is what we should in England call felo de se, because the levelling consequence is certain; and I have heard, indeed, that at this very moment you are enacting the most severe laws to keep down your lower orders from *advancing upon their superiors*, when, from changes in ancient manners, and by throwing away the most popular distinctions, their superiors have been *descending to them*.

"Governments must be supported upon different principles when their forms are different.—The social union of a REPUBLIC is different from that of a MONARCHY.—*Each* may be equally excellent, and equally consistent with national independence

pendence and freedom; but A PEOPLE must be of a piece with their *institutions*.—Where the laws equalise all the inhabitants of a state, the *laws*, and not the *makers of them*, are the habitual objects of popular respect; but where *privileged orders* exist, as in free monarchies *they must*, the *makers* of the laws are from habit the objects of reverence, *and the laws are reverenced with them*. In a Republic, therefore, the external distinctions we have been discussing would be *useless*, because there are no *distinct orders* to be maintained; but in a Monarchy they are important, because the whole frame of such a state being supported by personal privileges and gradations, if that system were disturbed the authority of the laws would be disturbed also.

"This is, perhaps, exemplified in the magistracy of our City of London, where the elections are popular in the extreme; but being in the very focus of a monarchy, and the monarchical feeling predominating in the pomp and ceremonies which peculiarly distinguish its government, the

magistrates, though chosen annually from the ordinary classes of her citizens, are held in the highest reverence, and their laws are most punctually observed: but if her Lord Mayor, her Sheriffs, and her Aldermen, on their great public days of festival and magistracy, were to appear in their bob wigs and pantaloons instead of in their ancient magnificent robes of office, and if the splendid hospitalities of her Guildhall and Mansion-house were to be reduced to the common fare (and *set out, as it is called)* of an ordinary or a chop-house, it would soon be like Bartholomew Fair—the dishes would run the hazard of being carried off by the mob, and the guests, however noble, in their surtouts and overalls, would probably be hustled in the streets. On the same principle it is not, perhaps, a prudent retrenchment, and in point of value most contemptible, to abolish offices which from the most ancient times have been established, except when the very objects of them have become obsolete; it is like picking up the pavement and pulling down the palisades which keep

off

off the crowd from a great house.—If they affect public freedom, the most efficacious laws should be made to prevent it; but let a monarchical government, when made a free one by popular balances, have *all its ancient trappings*.—To say they are useless, because they have no useful duties, may be a false conclusion.—A critic of this description might reason in the same manner with nature, and accuse her of the most senseless profusion for dressing out a cock pheasant or a peacock quite differently from a jackdaw or a crow.—How unmercifully those poor birds would be plucked! not a feather would be left in their *sinecure* tails. It is not, therefore, in the choice of the high men of my country to depart from those dignities which long custom has established, nor to relax in the visible distinctions which support them, because, since the laws would be degraded by the degradation of their authors, it would be a kind of *treason against the state.*

" ENGLAND is much too enlightened to be seduced by a false notion of equality into a

system quite alien to the form and character of her government; she knows that whatever gives the greatest stability to her free constitution is the best security the *few* can have for their privileges, or the many for their freedom; and as there has been no instance *(in our world at least)* of a discontented people to a just and prudent government, it would be discreet in the rulers of all countries, before they have recourse to measures of restraint and coercion, to examine well the causes of disobedience and discontent. "*If they look into their own conduct they will find the cause—if they amend it they will find the remedy.*"*

That I may not have occasion to return hereafter to the singular costumes amongst the men of Armata, I have only to add that my clothes perfectly fitted me, and I was not a little amused with my new and double character of a gentle-

* See Lord Chesterfield's speech against the Play-house Bill.

man

man to those who knew me, or of a barber, perhaps, to those who might not; the ordinary dresses which I afterwards saw in Swaloal amongst all ranks and conditions, were just like my own, and of course so precisely the same that I could not for a long time know one person from another, even after some acquaintance; and when I knew them at last it was only as shepherds know their sheep, by the variety of their faces notwithstanding THE SIMILARITY OF THEIR FLEECES: I saw no cloth worn but of two colours only, though their fabrics are beautifully various, and, indeed, the whole *male* population of Armata seemed to be beaten BLACK and BLUE by that *champion of bruisers*, CUSTOM.

CHAP-

CHAPTER III.

The Author begins his Journey towards the Capital of Armata.—One of the Horses dies from being over driven.—Reflections on Cruelty to Animals.

BEING now prepared for our journey, there drew up to the door a light commodious equipage for our conveyance, with animals not very different from our best horses, but apparently more fitted for the course than for the road, and accordingly we set off at a pace which terrified me not a little, and made me so giddy that I could scarcely speak or listen to what was said; and as we continued above two hours in this furious career, the poor creatures that carried us along became so exceedingly distressed, that I asked Cathmor to check the drivers in their speed; but devoted to all my wishes as I have already described him, he gently put me aside, saying "it would be absurd in the extreme to interfere." "Are we then pushed," I asked, "to any particular hour

hour in our day's progress? the country seems delightful, and we must see it to great disadvantage by passing so rapidly through it." "I feel the force of what you say," answered my youthful friend, "and we certainly are by no means *tasked* to any time; on the contrary, we shall reach our destination long before night; but it is far better we should linger in an inn, however irksome it may be, than not travel in the style and fashion of *gentlemen*—If we went slower we should be taken to be low people of some description or other, and we should lose all the respect with which it is my desire you should be everywhere received."

"You must certainly be the best judge," I replied, "of the manners and customs of your own country; but I cannot possibly comprehend how, when we are masters of our time, it could at all detract from our consequence, that we should appear to consider the health and comfort of those poor animals, without whose strength and willingness to serve us we could not travel at all—

you

you must surely see how very much they suffer; and can we answer for this *abuse* to a benevolent Creator, who gave them only for our USE? have they not the same feelings and the same sense of injuries with ourselves, and could you be happy upon this tour of pleasure and satisfaction if you were enjoying yourself through the pain and affliction of any of your *own kind?*"

"CERTAINLY NOT," he answered, "because I should be invading human privileges; but animals have none that the law recognises, and why should individuals run before the law, which defines all duties and protects all rights?" "Is it possible then," *I hastily replied*, "that such a country as your father described to me can be so *shockingly misgoverned?*" "To that again," replied Cathmor, "I can only *repeat*, that it is not for a subject to be wiser, nor more humane, than the legislature which prescribes his rules of action; and if, whenever the laws were silent, or appeared to us to be defective, we were to consider such *supposed* defects to be national misgovernment,

government, and not errors in ourselves, there would be an end at once of all government and law—If the subject, indeed, had never been presented to the notice of our councils, there might be matter to pause upon, as your opinions might, perhaps, have been adopted if duly considered; but the whole subject was brought very lately under their most serious consideration, when all your fanciful notions were rejected and put down.

"Our government is divided into two deliberative assemblies, which must agree upon any law before it can be submitted for adoption to the third estate, which may annul their united decisions—The highest of these assemblies *first* voted on this very subject *as if you yourself had given the rule to them;*—they voted UNANIMOUSLY *that animals had rights*—They declared that it had pleased Almighty God to endue them with many valuable faculties for the *use* of man, and they enacted punishments for the *abuse;*—but the *other* branch of our councils refused to concur

concur in the new law thus proposed to them, when it fell of course to the ground—Soon afterwards, however, upon further consideration, this very assembly, which had so refused to concur with the other, did *of their own mere motion* originate the very same law which they had before rejected, and sent it up to its original authors for their *undoubted* approbation; but its original authors having been inspired in the mean time (as I ought, at least, to believe) with some new and sudden light upon the subject, did then *in their turns reject it;* or in other words, *denied that it had so pleased Almighty God as they had before with one voice voted,* and wholly refusing to acknowledge any rights in animals SUCH *as they had* THEMSELVES ENACTED, left them to be driven to death in the manner which so much affects you; but let it not therefore be imagined, that our councils denied or discountenanced the just claims of humanity, because, though they refused to enact protection to animals, they admitted *in argument* that it was *a duty of imperfect obligation.*"—"*Imperfect obliga-*

obligations," I indignantly answered, " are sure to be *imperfectly obeyed*—human laws ought to come in *positive aid* of all moral duties which they can *practically deal with,* and it is impossible to deny that those for the protection of the lower world are of that description, since both the branches of your *most enlightened* legislature (*as you yourself* have related) did solemnly pronounce that THEY WERE. Nevertheless I highly respect your deference as a subject to their united opinions, though they differed at first *from each other,* and afterwards *from themselves;* but such ABSURD inconsistency must not think of travelling into another world for approbation or assent. In England, be assured, it would excite the disgust of an enlightened people, as it now provokes *mine.*"

The account of this strange proceeding accorded so little with what I had before heard from Morven in praise of the councils of Armata, and being forewarned by him not to rely too implicitly on my excellent young companion in matters which demanded the experience of age, I after-

I afterwards asked him to account for it, which he did as follows :—

" Our great Assembly, which suffers so much in your opinion, has, I believe, no equal in any nation, and like every thing else in Armata, has acquired its value by time and events improved on by the wisdom of our people; so far from being open to any general censure for versatility of opinions, the union of the judicial and legislative jurisdictions has given it a high character for independence and justice; a succession of great and learned men have flourished there for ages, and when I shall have made you acquainted with many of its members, I am sure you will be reconciled to the rest.

" The history of this national misfortune (for so I must consider it) is a very short one. The right of all animals to protection, but more especially of those without whose aids the condition of mankind would be helpless, is a claim so irresistible, that when faithfully stated, it was sure

sure to carry every thing before it; and when unanswerable in the abstract, it became more affecting by many notorious instances of the most savage cruelties, it is no wonder that there should have been an universal impulse to support it, and that any difficulties in the way of useful legislation, should have been completely overshadowed by the lustre of humanity.

" In this manner, the projected law you have heard of, went down almost by acclamation, to the other council for its assent, where its success would have been equally certain, if the resolutions of public assemblies were *invariably* the results of general conviction; but as the bravest armies have been put to flight by the panic of a single soldier, so the wisest councils, by the influence of individual error, may be turned out of the course of wisdom.—It happened at that time, by an accident which can occur but seldom, because the union of so many high and valuable qualifications is a rare occur-

rence, that a member of this lower assembly had unaccountably connected in his large and comprehensive mind, the brave and manly character of the Armatan people, with sports and exhibitions of the most barbarous description. Impressed with so mistaken an opinion, this extraordinary and amiable person seemed to consider it as a kind of public duty for the encouragement of generous courage and popular freedom, to protect, by his countenance and presence, the too frequent resorts where animals were excited to more than instinctive ferocity, or where his fellow men, without quarrel, were matched almost to murder one another; and on those principles, if they deserve that name or character, he became the vehement opposer of the measure that had been adopted.

"Against an honest feeling of this morbid description, all reasoning was useless; and remembering, as I do, the force of his eloquence, and the influence of that personal friendship which he had acquired with many so justly, and with none

none more sincerely than myself, I do not at all wonder that his unprepared hearers were for a season at least surprized: and though, as you have heard, they came to themselves afterwards, yet the recovery was too late: a strong sensation had been created, which, extending to the other branch of our government, this high improvement of our national character was defeated;—but the good seed has been sown, and, as often happens in the natural world, lies dormant for a future and perhaps not a distant harvest.

"However extraordinary the observation may appear when applied to a person so justly respected for his talents, yet I can in no way account for such unconquerable pertinacity in so wrong an opinion against all the dictates of his own general good-nature, and the common feelings of mankind, but by resorting to a doctrine confirmed by much experience, that every man in the world *(myself of course amongst the rest)* is so strangely particular in some

point or other, that it may well be considered as an insanity *quoad hoc*—it being, like other insanities, invulnerable to all argument—If the circle in which this absurdity revolves is so very small as to touch nobody, a man is then only what is called SINGULAR in that respect, but if its orbit is extended so as to run foul of other people, he is then called a MADMAN, and is confined."

Another set of the unhappy victims *of imperfect obligations* being now yoked to our carriage, we drove on precisely at the same furious rate, to the great delight of my gay companion, who seemed to sit more erect upon his seat, to preserve I suppose our united consequence, whilst the wretched animals were almost expiring under the lash.—As for myself, I said not a single word during the whole stage, and only offered up my silent thanks to Almighty God that Armata was not my country.

On arriving at our evening's destination, we saw

saw sitting at the door two poor labouring men, seemingly in the greatest pain from over fatigue; they made no complaint of their employer, who had not tasked them beyond their contract, but they were obviously unable, from extreme weakness, to reach their homes, though not far distant.—Soon afterwards I missed Cathmor; and as he did not return at the hour our supper was provided, I waited for him with impatience, fearing that some accident had befallen him.—It was night when he appeared, and although he put aside all my inquiries as to his absence, yet I saw from his countenance he had been much affected; and soon afterwards the cause of his distress could no longer be concealed, as he was surrounded at the door of our apartment by two large families, who with their poor mothers were embracing his knees, and though I could not understand what they said, were obviously invoking blessings upon his head:—they were the wives and children of the poor labourers whom I found he had carried home, and given them money to support them until they were able to work with

 comfort.

comfort.—Thinking this a most favourable occasion for trying the effect of human laws in seconding divine precepts, I carried him into the stable, where I had been told one of the poor animals that had brought us was at the point of death: when he saw him in that condition, and was told that the master was just set up in business and had a large family, he said he was truly sorry for him, and desiring the driver to follow us into our apartment, he immediately gave him an order for the value as he called it of his master's *property;* but I could not perceive that the cold sweat and excruciating pangs of the unhappy dying animal had made the least impression upon him. I cannot, however, conclude this interesting subject, without acquainting my readers with the victory of nature and virtue—whilst his feelings were thus so strongly excited by human sufferings, and so striking an analogy was within my view to extend them, I opened my whole battery upon his ingenuous mind—the breach was soon practicable, and humanity entered in triumph—my companion

companion laid down his arms at her feet, lamenting that the siege had been so long protracted from the false idea that the lower world was beyond the boundaries of her dominion.

I was deeply impressed with this interesting conversion, and have often since reflected upon it with delight.—Nothing indeed in the human character is so extraordinary, or, I might rather say, *mysterious*, as the manner in which the consciences of the most enlightened and virtuous men lie prostrate and dormant under the influence of some ruling passion, or where, from the neglect of public law or domestic education, some particular objects of humanity or justice have not been sufficiently implanted and enforced.—Of the *former*, the divine eloquence of our sacred Scripture casts into the deepest shade every possible illustration: we there see a highly gifted Sovereign living in such general purity as to have been said to walk after God's own heart, yet sleeping in peace amidst the complicated crimes of cruelty, adultery, and

murder, till recalled to himself by the sublime simplicity of the Prophet: of the second, the evidence is now before the reader, in a kind hearted ingenuous being of our own species, though of another world—you have seen him shedding the tears of pity over human sufferings, though they were almost at the same moment before him in the most heart-rending shapes, without his feeling them at all.—The animal he had doomed to be destroyed for the gratification of an imaginary consequence, was a creature also of God; his docility and strength were given him as supports to man in his fallen and feeble condition; he was endued with all the faculties, though suited to his inferior station, which were bestowed upon himself; and he felt all the bodily pains, perhaps all the pangs of a wounded spirit, which the proudest of mankind can feel: but public law having been silent which should have proclaimed those truths and have drawn the moral conclusion, he had been left as dead to their impressions as the savage in the desert—but his soul being now laid suddenly

open

open to the light of nature and of truth, he admitted at once all my principles, deplored their imperfect laws which had blindfolded and brutalized their people, adding, that since the period of rejecting their proposed amendment, the most harmless animals had not only been wantonly destroyed, whose mangled carcasses were to be seen daily in the streets, but that savage cruelties to the human species, and even the most atrocious murders, had filled the calendars of their tribunals beyond the example of any former times. I was not surprized at this melancholy communication; the truth is, that *laws* and *laws alone*, are capable of forming and fashioning a people—Divine commands are nothing except as they are engrafted upon our system, and we ourselves should be just as little protected against violence from each other, but by the most penal consequences, enforced too by parental warnings to avoid them.—From not extending corrections for the protection of animals, in cases at least of gross and malignant oppression, children are almost universally cruel,

and

and when they grow up, it is too late to correct them but by criminal justice. Some difficulties might perhaps attend such jurisdiction in the outset, but they could hardly reach another generation; the moral voice of the law would be heard even by infants, when principles, good or evil, are easiest implanted, and which generally endure for ever.

Soon after sunrise we proceeded on our journey with only pleasant and rational speed, and I can now therefore take some notice of the face of this fine island, which I could see no more of during the former day than if I had soared over it in a balloon.—The air was serene —the roads were smooth, and the hourly shifting landscapes beautifully various—delightful undulations of hill and valley enlivened throughout by smooth or rapid waters, and enriched with picturesque villages, through the light smoke of which the distant spires of churches were every where to be seen.—To crown the prospect, the sides of almost all the eminences sloping southward,

southward, were adorned with the seats of some of the greatest and most ancient families in Armata. I am not sure that a traveller, without being tedious, can say much more of the newest country which he is only quickly passing through.—Remarkable scenery should be viewed *distinctly*, and worked up into pictures by those who know how to paint them, which I certainly do not.

As we approached very near to one of those noble possessions, many of which we had passed, Cathmor said, he would ask permission to view it, which was immediately granted.

As we drove through the plantations on the road to the house, or rather the palace, which stood upon nearly the highest ground in the midst of them, I was quite overpowered with the enchanting scene, and, as my eye glided along immense and diversified masses of magnificent trees, (a collection seemingly from all climates,)

climates,) rising in an ascending scale to the lofty summit of what unwooded would have been a precipice, the whole prospect was on a sudden reflected back again, as if by a thousand mirrors, from the transparent surface of a splendid lake, which stretched itself out beneath our feet to a vast extent, until it was lost in the distant woods. I stood for a while motionless, and exclaimed aloud to my amazed companion, in a voice of admiration and transport,—"Where am I? What is it I see? Was Milton brought here in vision, or actually like myself, when he described the primæval paradise of our world?" I shall insert my whole soliloquy, though it makes me appear myself in the character of the DEVIL:—

"So on he fared, and to the border came
Of Eden, whose delicious paradise,
Now nearer, crowns with her enclosure green,
As with a rural mound, the champain head
Of a steep wilderness, whose hairy sides
With thicket overgrown, grotesque and wild,
Access denied; and overhead up-grew
Insuperable height of loftiest shade,

Cedar,

Cedar, and pine, and fir, and branching palm,
A silvan scene: and as the ranks ascend,
Shade, above shade, a woody theatre
Of stateliest view."

To fill up the smaller parts of this fine picture, I would rather refer to Horace Walpole, or Mason, or De Lisle, or still more to the delightful realities of England, than attempt any description of my own; I am not in the habits of writing, and always fall short in expressing what I feel.

We were now placed under a guide to conduct us through this grand residence, *(if residence indeed I ought to call it,)* because, though we met with labourers at every step, in great numbers, pruning the shrubs, sweeping the lawns, and supporting the flowers that were bending to the earth in luxuriant beauty, and filling the air with inexpressible fragrance, I did not see one human being of any description to enjoy this heavenly retreat. I asked my young friend *most earnestly* how this strange solitude was to be accounted for; but before he

gave

gave me any answer, I thought I could observe a look not indeed of contempt, but of that good-natured complacency and surprize which is frequently raised by the questions of children on what they see; regarding me then with a smile, he answered—" Oh yes! it is completely enjoyed in proper times for its enjoyment; but not *at this season:* you are probably thrown out by counting months on your voyage, forgetting that the poles of our planets point in opposite directions, and that though it is now midwinter in England, *this very day*, as I told you yesterday, would be our *summer solstice*.—What need I say more?—This is not the cell or hut of a hermit, but a mansion for a social being at a very differed period of the year; so much so, that if it were not for your satisfaction, or, to speak the honest truth, that my father has put me about you as his deputy, I would not be found here longer than our cattle can be refreshed, for any money you could lay down."

I was so much perplexed with what I heard, that

that I scarcely knew how to deal with it, being perfectly aware, from every thing around me, that it must be Midsummer in Armata: I could therefore only say, that I was unacquainted with the natural history of her productions, but that all creation seemed to be in the highest perfection; "and do those fine trees, then," I asked, "preserve their beauty throughout the year, or are they leafless in winter which, as I have learned from your father, is often most severe?" He here laughed, and muttered something in his own language, which when I afterwards understood, I could not help laughing also—translated literally into English, it signified, Damn all trees, shrubs, and flowers! and then, resuming our English language, which he always spoke to me, he said, "The trees and shrubs are of course without leaves or flowers in *winter*, and are in their prime *now*;—but what then? Can they converse? Can they dance? Can they sing? If you poured wine upon them instead of water would they live?—or can they move from their places and hunt?

Would

Would you, in short, have a man be like a bird, and sit whistling amongst those branches *in the summer*, instead of being in Swaloal—divine Swaloal! where, would to Heaven! we could be to-morrow!—and here let me entreat you to remember, if you speak of this place at all, *(which I very much wish you would not,)* that I only came here under my father's *orders* to shew it to you; if you forget this I shall be completely laughed at, as there are seven balls, four concerts, and thirteen private parties, all of which I have missed to-night by this damned stupid adventure: I ordered my servants to say I was in town, but ill of a sore throat; and though I wish our beds might be prepared for us, yet I am ashamed to put my letter into the post at such a distance from town, because the rascally country mark might dodge us; let me beg of you therefore not to expose me."—Which I the more readily promised not to do, *as he had sufficiently exposed himself.*

Seeing at this moment an immense tree, resembling

bling our English oak, in all the glories of the year, I quitted the path and ran towards it, to sit under its shade; but my companion, in great seeming agitation, called out loudly to me, "Come back! come back! or you will be certainly caught; there are *traps* every where." "*Traps!*" I replied hastily.—"What! traps for men? I wonder no longer at this solitude.—Are you cannibals then, and do you snare your fellow-creatures as if they were larks?" "No, no," he replied, laughing, "we don't eat one another, but we like to be to ourselves when we eat our mutton; and there would be no end of wanderers if we did not catch them by the leg." It was now my turn to laugh, and I could not help telling him, "that if this were done in England, the owner perhaps would be caught himself, and by the neck too, as JACK CATCH might retaliate."*

* Since my arrival in England, I have learned that lawyers differ upon this subject;—but humanity surely dictates the greatest caution in the use of such dangerous protections.

We now reached the house, where we were received, at a magnificent entrance, by a person who seemed to me to be a lady of the most affable and pleasing manners; her gown was like one of our rich flowered silks, but rather of an old pattern, and it had been some time worn; but I was particularly struck with the singular appearance of a very large bunch of keys where our women wear their watches.—I bowed to her with great respect, and asked my friend to present me to her.—"You need not," he said, "bow so profoundly; it would please her far better if you were to look in your pocket for the largest piece of money in it. How could you imagine she was A LADY; did not I tell you there were none here *at this season?* We are not in an enchanted castle; the woman is not made of wood or marble, nor fastened, as you may see, to the floor; and, if she were her own mistress, would soon be far enough off. She is only the housekeeper to shew the apartments, and pray let us make haste through them; they smell damnably after having been

so long shut up, and besides we have a long way to go before night." We now passed through a noble suite of rooms, which were rich, and well proportioned, ornamented with the finest tapestry and the richest brocades: the lustres also were most splendid, and the pictures, which were in magnificent frames, seemed to be finely painted; but the portraits of another world were, of course, uninteresting. She pointed, however, with a very long stick, to many great statesmen, philosophers, orators, warriors, judges, and learned men, and with that appropriate cadence which we hear at Exeter 'Change, when we visit the wild beasts. Throughout the whole of this immense round which, without forgetting my friend's injunction, occupied at least two hours, we did not see one man, or woman, or child, nor any one living creature of any kind whatsoever, except several bats, who seemed, by their flutterings, to have been but seldom disturbed, and now and then a coterie of moths, but who were so busy *at luncheon* on the velvet cushions and

 curtains,

curtains, that they did not even seem to observe us.

When we arrived at the port of exit, I now took Cathmor's advice as to the most agreeable mode of parting salutation, giving our conductress one of the largest coins that circulate in Armata, which she received with a most gracious smile, curtseying to me at the same time till the key of the great hall was stretched motionless on the ground.

We now returned through the plantations by a different road.—I had a fowling-piece with me, the gift of Morven on my first landing, and, seeing an animal run by, with a smell as it passed me that almost produced suffocation, and carrying in his jaws a most beautiful bird, which he was bringing from a field where several bleturs and their young lay torn and mangled, I almost instinctively raised my gun to my shoulder to shoot him: but my companion, holding my arm, cried out with the utmost emotion,

emotion, "What can you possibly mean?—How could we answer for such a dreadful breach of hospitality? It is a great favour, I assure you, to see the place, and would you return it by such an outrage as this?" I was almost petrified with surprise; and, holding fast my nose till the horrid effluvia had evaporated, I asked him how it could possibly be considered as an ungrateful trespass upon the lord of this domain to kill a most offensive wild beast, detected in the murderous act of destroying his property.

"His killing the bleturs," said Cathmor, "was *perhaps incorrect;* but it is impossible below the Heavens to have unmixed blessings, and we must be contented to take every good with some alloy of evil.—Those animals, though they formerly infested the country, and still do a vast deal of mischief, are nevertheless bred and preserved at a very great expense for our sport, and you may guess how *impossible it would be to live without them,* when I inform

you that we desert all those natural beauties you have been admiring, though we exhaust our fortunes to create and keep them up,—that we prefer the frosts and fogs of our rigorous climate to its most delicious sunshine,—and abandon even our public councils in the most arduous and critical conjunctures rather than not follow up *the closest scent* of what so much revolts your *ultra mundane nostrils.*—Do you wonder *now,*" he said, *as if he had just finished the demonstration of the plainest problem in Euclid,* " do you wonder *now,* my good friend, that the absent proprietor of this mansion would have started back with horror, when told of the outrage which I so fortunately averted?" I listened to all this with silent composure, and taking out my leathern snuff-box, which had fortunately defied sea-water, and in which there still remained some most excellent rappee for the refreshment of my *ultra mundane nostrils,* I put out my hand, under the pretence of thanking him, but in fact to take the chance of coming in contact with his pulse, as I was now

quite

quite convinced he was MAD. Another organ now came in for a full share of delight; as my *ears* were saluted on a sudden with a harsh, frightful, and continued yell, such as I had sometimes heard in the woods of America, when fires were lighted to keep back the wolves—so that if I had not known we were in a reclaimed district, I should have expected to be instantly devoured; and the more so as there was not a soul within a mile who could help us.—The cause soon became manifest in the persons of near a hundred large animals, more resembling our dog than any other creature, but, instead of being of some one hue, or shades of one, their skins appeared as if they were clouted with patches of different colours, which deformed them not a little.—My young companion seemed now quite enchanted, saying, "that as it was a natural propensity always to imagine something beyond realities, he had no doubt that what we were then hearing had given rise to the idea of the Music of the Spheres."—I made no answer, heartily wishing myself *among*

them, without any apprehension of that kind of concert.

The senses, however, might be said, to have been in full *harmony;* as the sight of the motley beasts, with the noise and smell, in such an equal and happy combination, could not but prevent their being jealous of one another.

We now retired to the inn for the night, and in the morning pursued our journey.—Nothing remarkable occurred till the day following, when, soon after sunrise, there suddenly burst upon us, from the summit of a commanding eminence, so sublime a spectacle in the distant view of the Capital, that I thought a second time our immortal poet must have been here before me and described it:—

" ——— When, by break of cheerful dawn,
He gain'd the height of a high climbing hill,
Which to his eye discovers, unawares,
The goodly prospect of a foreign land
Just seen, and its renown'd metropolis,
With glittering spires and pinnacles adorn'd,
Which now the rising sun gilds with his beams."

On

On our nearer approach, the country still preserved the same variety and beauty, if *country* it could any longer be called; as it was rather a countless cluster of *towns* almost touching each other, in none of which I could discover any laborious arts or manufactures, but only immense numbers of decorated villas or cheerful village habitations, interspersed with shops of every useful description.—Reflecting here upon the public burthens, which the reader must well remember the account of in the former volume, I could not but be surprised to see AN UNIVERSAL FACE OF GAIETY, HAPPINESS, AND PLENTY.

We now came in sight of a fine river, and passed it by a bridge of incomparable structure, from which, on both sides, we discovered others of great magnitude and beauty, connecting the capital at various parts with other populous districts.

At last we entered SWALOAL; and after being wheeled along many noble streets, thronged with

with carriages of every description and with multitudes on foot, as business or pleasure might direct them, we arrived at Morven's house, instead of that of my young companion, where we found every thing so well prepared for us, that I was happy he had avoided the disgrace of being traced *into the wilderness* by the odious marks of a country post, when it was intended that I should be his guest.

In the evening we had an excellent supper, and I went early to bed, though with very little inclination to sleep, every nerve having been electrified by his promise to attend me next day through the haunts of fashion and delight, which, having never been very distinctly described, the enchantment of novelty was undispelled.

CHAP-

CHAPTER IV.

The Author is introduced to the Amusements and Gaieties of Swaloal.

THE sun next day, though there was certainly nothing new for him to see, had finished nevertheless full twelve hours of his diurnal course, before, as I was told, there was any thing *under the sun* to be seen; and it was not, therefore, till four in the *evening*, that our horses were at the door for our *morning*'s ride;—we then proceeded towards the royal park, in the favourite environ of the town, and I must say, that the most partial remembrance of England, as we entered it, raised up in my mind no rival to its beauties.

It is several miles in circumference, and at one end of it there is a royal palace, surrounded with a delightful garden,—to both which splendid demesnes of Royalty the whole people of that

that free country are indiscriminately admitted, not only in carriages or on horseback, but on foot also.—Indeed, the distant view of it had so raised my desire to see it, that nothing but its real excellence could have saved me from the utmost disappointment.—As we approached the spot, I observed the most smooth and beautiful expanse of lawn in every direction, and quite open, except as it was bounded unseen by the general and distant enclosure, and there were tracks winding through it, which shewed that carriages might almost every where pass.—The whole extent was most happily ornamented with groups of the finest trees, dispersed in the most fascinating variety, and in the full pride of all the foliage of the year.—I could not now help expressing my surprize that not one carriage, though so remarkably numerous in all other quarters, nor any *one individual* mounted, or on foot, were to be seen in any part of this terrestrial paradise, though our view extended above a mile all around us.—My young friend smiled at me, saying, I should very soon be gratified

gratified with a sight within the Royal precincts, far more inviting, which would fully account for the solitude that had surprized me; he added, that there would be but little difference between being buried under the turf in those solitary recesses which had filled me with such rapture, or rolling over them in the most costly equipage.—" Now, now," said he, as we rode onward, " now we come to the scene of true splendour and delight."—At this moment, being still galloping from impatience, we turned short round a dead wall, and the wind being very high, my hat was suddenly beat off, and my head entangled in what I took to be a market-woman's basket of flowers, but which turned out to be only the head-dress of a lady that had been blown out of an open carriage just at the corner we were turning.—As soon as this wreck was cleared away by my friend's assistance, and we were preparing to move forwards, we were involved all at once in a seemingly impenetrable whirlwind of dust and gravel which when mixed with the smoke

driven

driven down from the houses just above us, would have made the blackest assemblage of steam-engines at Birmingham or Wolverhampton appear like the gayest palaces lighted up with gas.—Through this dismal medium, my half-extinguished eyes (which so filled with earth in England would have given me a vote for Middlesex) could see only by short snatches sometimes the head of one horse and sometimes the tail of another, with now and then part of a carriage moving on at the pace of a funeral procession, which my friend told me, (for I could see nothing farther,) extended about a mile, but hemmed in on each side, with people riding or rather tumbling over one another. We were now and then stopped besides by vehicles, completely jammed, out of which we could see ladies disengaging themselves, or at least their head-dresses and drapery, looming, as sailors term it, through the mist, and, to keep up the metaphor, flapping against each other like sails and colours in a gale of wind at sea.

My

My friend, I could now observe, was in the highest state of enjoyment; and his countenance being lighted up with all the animation of triumph, he exclaimed, with exultation—"THIS IS LIFE INDEED! Do you now wonder that those unmeaning miles of grass which enchanted you are left to the beasts that perish? Good Heavens! how delightful is this moment!—Why, Sir, almost all the rank, and wit, and beauty, not only in Swaloal but in the whole Island of Armata, are here condensed within less than three acres of ground!—It is indeed the very otto of fashion and charms of every description." "And what then, my good friend," said I, "what would signify the otto of the most delicious perfume, if the stopper were kept in the bottle? and what also can be the delight of beauty when it cannot be seen, or of wit when it cannot be heard, or of rank when all its distinctions are buried in darkness and confusion? Would not the same assemblage of rank, wit, and beauty, if spread out upon those verdant expanses, where people could see and

converse

converse with one another, be far more rational and delightful?" "Not at all," answered Cathmor, "your understanding is overshadowed by the prejudices of your own country; it is in fashionable assemblies as in war—*The close column* does all the execution.—Your favourite lawn is too extensive and distinct.—Nothing pleases when it is fully seen and understood." Here he added a sentence in some other language, the meaning of which I found afterwards to be, *Omne ignotum pro magnifico habetur*—"There must be light and shade, my friend, in every picture."—"Certainly," I re-"plied, but here all is *shade*, and not even a glimmering of *light*."—"Not so," said he, interrupting me, "did you not tell me but a moment ago, that every now and then you could see the head of one horse and sometimes of another, and parts of carriages, as the dust swept magnificently along, some entire and some broken? What, in the name of Heaven, would you have more? Would you see all at once? Perhaps then you would wish the women

to

to go naked, though it is the very secret of love and desire, that something should always be concealed and left for the imagination to supply. Neither do you seem to take into the account *that, even if you had seen nothing at all, you have still been here;* you must know and feel that you have, and even if you *had not*, and wished to have the credit of it, who could contradict you?—all the devils in hell could not deny it. For all these reasons, my dear friend, and for a thousand others, depend upon it there can be nothing in this world, nor, without meaning to be prophane, perhaps in that hereafter, so absolutely perfect, as the scene we are now um * * * * *

The remainder of my friend's sentence, viz. the rest of the word *umbuging, which in Swaloal, it seems, means enjoying, was here unhappily *broken*, by his bones being nearly broken also; for at this moment he was knocked off his horse by another, which having thrown his

* In the language of Armata it is an aspiration as with us, and not a letter.

rider had run away, the only living thing within at least half-a-mile that was moving faster than a snail.—I was told indeed that a large sum of money had been made by an undertaker, when the town was healthy, *or when people had not time to die,* by letting out his long-tailed amblers for this slow procession, who were accustomed to a pace which other horses could not manage. My friend was not at all hurt, and with an air of the utmost satisfaction, as I was lifting him off the ground, for nobody else could see him for the dust and smoke, he said to me with a smile, "I am not sorry for what has happened; such things give incident and anecdote to the panorama, and are its high light and finish." "Very well," said I, "putting light wholly out of the question, any thing certainly that *finishes* such a scene must be satisfactory. Believe me I should pass for a liar or a madman if I were to say in England that I had seen all this or any thing resembling it."

We now went home to dress, as he had before promised

promised to introduce me to several great ladies, who, it seems, were to be found within their own houses once in every year, some of the greatest even TWICE—this phenomenon, he said, had been made known throughout the whole city, by beating against the doors of all persons of condition with an immense hammer that moves upon a hinge; and that his own gate having been split a week ago, when the proclamations were left at his house, he thought it was a most fortunate opportunity to present me.

Having heard so much of the beauty and accomplishments of the women of Armata, and this manner of approach to them being so extraordinary and, in point of time, *so critical*, I confess the hours lingered with me till midnight, when he said it might be as well to go, as the principal lady, who lived besides at several miles distant, being a great invalid, kept *very early hours*. We set out, therefore, soon after twelve, and after driving through many

streets we got into a situation to me so perfectly new and terrific, that I suffered more from fear than I thought it manly to express; an universal tumult and conflict having taken place, which I of course considered to be a violent sedition, if not the beginning of a revolution in the government.—The carriages were driven violently against each other, their drivers assaulting their opponents with the utmost fury. I can liken it indeed to nothing but what we read of in our earliest histories, when the ancient Britons used to rush to battle in their chariots.—The contest at last became so violent that I could no longer conceal my alarm, and said quite plainly to my friend, that though nothing was further from my wish than to detach him from his duty in the service of his country, yet that being myself an entire stranger to Armata and its concerns, I neither wished to take any part in its internal divisions, nor to expose my person on either side.—I entreated therefore to be let down without delay, as I should take the chance of finding out his

house

house on foot. Cathmor was most highly amused with my apprehensions, telling me with a smile, and manifestly with the utmost enjoyment of the disorder we were involved in, that there was neither rebellion, nor sedition, nor commotion; nor any other quarrel or difference but that which was most natural and of *nightly occurrence*, from the desire of arriving first at scenes of extreme interest and splendour, adding that I should soon be convinced the pleasure was well worth the contest.—This declaration served a little to compose me, and by the spirit and dexterity of our coachman, who had laid low several of his antagonists, we arrived at a large gate in little more than an hour afterwards, with only two holes through our carriage, which he said might be repaired at the trifling expense of only £30 of our money, and he was happy to add, that the servant's leg was not broken, but was only severely bruised, which a week or two would set to rights in the Hospital, where he had just sent him.—As we alighted, I saw him give a large coin to

our coachman, who whispered him that seven carriages had been broken to pieces, and that *their contents* (as he called them) would be well off if they got up to the door by day-light.

I was now perfectly at my ease, expecting of course to be speedily repaid for all our troubles, as we had now reached the foot of a richly carpeted staircase, brilliantly illuminated, at the top of which and onwards I saw the head-dresses, and sometimes even imperfect glimpses of the faces they adorned, but which seemed to ask no ornament whatever. My impatience was now extreme, from the slowness of our advance—and, on asking my friend the occasion of it, and of the thundering noise above, as if some public proclamation were making—he said it was only the announcing of a very high lady a little on before us, who had been lame with an old rheumatism for above fifty years, but, having seen in the newspapers she was recovering, he had no doubt she would reach the top of the staircase in a quarter of an hour, when

when the obstruction would cease.—We found, however, to our cost that this calculation was rather sanguine, though it is so difficult to measure time when we wish it to pass quickly, that I shall content myself with saying that we arrived *at last* in the door-way of a magnificent apartment, when I overheard my friend, who was just before me, asking several persons as they passed him to give him some *general idea* of where the lady of the house was to be found, and so impossible was it to have approached her, wherever she might have been, that, instead of a passage being *forced* by any *man* or *woman, putting all ceremony out of the question,* I am confident, that, if we had been at the bottom of Snow-Hill, the most furious bullock, escaping out of Smithfield, would not have made an attempt upon the crowd that was before us—the instinctive wisdom of the brute would have protected mankind in the zenith of this folly.

The heat now became excessive, and nobody

seemed to take any notice of each other, further than the constant repetition on every side of "*Kee see! Kee see! Asmate! Asmate!*" which, I found afterwards, were exclamations, that the pressure of the crowd and the difficulty of respiration were intolerable.—My face was now running down with sweat, as if I had been in a vapour-bath, but without the possibility of having recourse to my handkerchief, both my hands being as completely pinned down as if I had been on my way to Newgate under a commitment for murder. I will fairly own, nevertheless, that amidst all this misery I was so captivated with even the transient view of the most exquisitely beautiful women, that I was making a desperate and despairing effort for a nearer view of them, by an assault upon the door-way into the first apartment, when my friend, pulling me by the sleeve with one of his hands, which with great dexterity he had disengaged for my relief, told me that, supposing I could have succeeded, it was much too late,

as

as we had five other places to go to, where we might probably see even greater beauties than those who had attracted my admiration. We then retired to a small room at the bottom of the staircase, on the steps of which we had been detained two hours, and, whilst our servants were engaged in finding the carriage, I earnestly pressed him to return home, and to find some other opportunity of presenting me to his friends.—"Friends of mine!" he answered; "Damn me! if I ever saw one of them before to-night—nor care if they were all in hell." Encouraged by this, I now fairly owned to him that I had not the strength nor inclination to proceed any farther.—He seemed much affected with my distress, saying, at the same time, with the greatest possible kindness, that he would most willingly give up every satisfaction of his own for my accommodation, but that it was really not in his power—"My sister," he said, "*whom you have not yet seen*, having had the misfortune to lose her mother

mother in her infancy, from an overturn at a horse-race, her education devolved upon my father, who is obliged on this occasion to put her under the protection of some kind female friend; now it happens most unluckily that this her Umdrumm," (pointing to a huge woman who stood near us,) " with whom she might go any where, *and do any thing*, being a martyr to corns, and somebody having trod upon them, she can accompany her no longer, and I am obliged to take care of her myself." This dilemma silenced, of course, all further objection, more especially when, on my speaking of *another night* for the remaining parties—" Another *year*, my friend, you must mean; *to-night* will end them all; and, believe me, it would be little better than ruin to a young woman, *after she was once out*, not to be seen EVERY WHERE;—people would naturally say she could not have been *asked*, and that there must be something against her character."

To all this I could only observe, that it was inconceivable to me how a woman could possibly risk her character by taking natural rest in the season which Nature had *universally pointed out*. "Nature," replied my friend, "has pointed out *no such thing*—NIGHT is the season for the *lower world only*;—plants of all kinds, down to the grass we tread on, open their bosoms to the rising sun, and fold them again in their mantles when he sets—Animals, in the same manner, following their brute instinct, rejoice in the light of day, and repose until it returns; mankind also, *taken in the mass*, have the same propensities—a kind of higher instinct, for the government of those who are to live by labour, which can only be done when they can see their way to do it:—the day, therefore, my good friend, is *their portion also*, but NIGHT was made for their SUPERIORS. The stars of Heaven shine forth only in the dark—at day-break they disappear.—Neither is the want of rest, which, from a national prejudice, you are pleased to call NATURAL,

in any manner destructive of health and beauty; on the contrary, I know many women of rank who began this career at seventeen, yet who *now*, at the age of six or seven and twenty, *nay*, *some even at thirty*, still retain a considerable share of freshness; and, as to *longevity*, putting *looks* out of the question, I know fifty, ave a hundred, women who are far above eighty, and, though constantly in *mobs* from night to morning, without ever seeing the sun for months together, nor ever desiring to see him, yet continue to set death and disease at defiance. Fashion, therefore, my dear friend, gives birth to a species of mummy, which the Egyptians you once told me of never knew."

Finding I had no chance of prevailing upon the topic of sleep, I now tried my chance by suggesting, as the truth was, that his sister's dress was rather disordered; submitting how far it might be decent that she should any longer appear in it; here, however, I was equally unfortunate; my friend expressed the utmost

utmost astonishment at this new conceit, as he termed it—exclaiming, with his hands clasped together, "What must be the condition of your *vulgar country*—how happy was my father's escape from it into a region of higher civilization! You should know, Sir, if you have the organs to understand me, that there is a picturesque in *art* as well as in *nature*—in the artificial dresses of men and women, as much as in the romantic scenery of the woods; and that the flattened head-dress and torn garment, when their gay causes become manifest, are as sublimely beautiful in the view of sublunary fashion as the rocky fragment or ruined forest in the divine eye of philosophy, when traced back to the universal confusion of the world." I was quite overpowered with this last flight—I was ignorant of the language of Armata, and there being nothing in our own which could do justice to my unconvinced submission, I could only say, with a most profound bow, "*Vous avez raison, Monsieur.*"

The

The carriage was now called up, and, after passing through a similar scene of confusion, which was, however, far less alarming when I was acquainted with the causes, we arrived in the street near the house we were going to, when our coachman being thrown off his box after all his victories, from the accident of a wheel being carried away, we proceeded on foot with lights carried before us, a ceremony which cost me about fifty pounds of our money, as my clothes were entirely ruined with a mixture of wax and grease from the lower stars of the earth, which, in Swaloal, light up the resorts of fashion, when the stars of heaven are gone to bed.

At last we entered the proclaimed mansion, more magnificent and crowded than the first; but how will the reader ever recover from his astonishment, when I inform him, upon my most sacred word of honour, and as I hope to dance at the next ball at Almack's, that standing in just such another door-way as the identical

tical one we had just come from, and sweating again like a bull, with my arms pinioned down as before, in a vain and fruitless approach to my handkerchief, I saw—may I never see an English play or opera if I deceive the reader in any thing—I saw the same individual men and women I had just before seen, and at the same inaccessible distances, unless it had pleased Heaven, for the punishment of a vain curiosity, or rather as a reward for my perseverance, to convert me into a salamander *for the night*. There is always, however, something to be learned, and even to be enjoyed, in this probationary world from every occurrence, however painful. Seeing my friend and his sister obviously delighted, whilst I was *literally dying*, I could not help raising my mind to the contemplation of higher objects, reconciling to myself that the planets nearest the sun, and even the sun himself, might be inhabited by beings in other respects like ourselves, but with organs suited to their atmospheres, or perhaps to none at all, either of which would in a moment

ment reduce us to ashes, and perhaps shrivel up like a scroll even the world which we inhabit.

I shall not describe the other places we went to, as they were all precisely the same, except that I was told there was at one a celebrated concert, which, being passionately fond of music, I endeavoured to approach; but it being, it seems, a kind of mongrel, between a public subscription and a private party, all access to be within distinct hearing was impossible.—I was in the outermost room, which being open to the air of the passages, I felt myself just able to breathe, but could not possibly imagine how animal life could be sustained in those within, from whence there issued sounds so beautifully plaintive, that I began to think the story of Orpheus was not fabulous, and that he was still at the gates of hell to bring back his Eurydice to the upper world.

We were now on the top of the staircase, (indeed we had never got any farther,) and in a state

a state of the utmost impatience, as our carriage being broken, we had places in another that stopped the way, when we were detained for half an hour by an accident too ludicrous to be passed over.—The old woman, whom we had been stopped by at the first house *going up stairs*, was now just before us *going down*, and before she had limped half way to the street, our coachman was obliged to drive off, and we had near a quarter of a mile to walk to it in the dark.

Not wishing to distress my friend any further, who was always devoted to oblige me, nor ignorantly perhaps to interfere with his sister's advancement in the world, I suffered myself to be still carried onward, from house to house, until the sun, so odious to fashion, most rudely broke in upon us.

On my return home, I had, for the first time in my life, an opportunity of comparing the effect of fatigue from useful labour, or cheerful recreation, with the lassitude arising from such

a night as I had spent.—Instead of peaceful and refreshing slumbers, the blessed refuge from painful recollections, whilst the body is winding up into recruited strength, I tossed and tumbled in my bed, with shattered nerves, and a fever which consumed me; with images brought into view neither by waking remembrance, nor the offspring of sleep, but partaking distractedly of both; perplexing the mind with hideous phantoms in their pursuit. One *distinct* consoling thought only preponderated—the sweet remembrance of my own dear country.

It can hardly have escaped the observation of the reader, that in the course of life I have been describing, the Armatans could have no natural enjoyment of the summer, nor see much of the light of day.—Yet to assert that nature herself might be infected with this inversion, or affronted by such neglect, would, in this age of philosophy, be a hazardous proposition—but there can be no hazard whatever in stating a fact: if you hatch the eggs of a hen for three generations,

tions, by the heat of a fire instead of by the parent's incubation, that animal instinct becomes lost for ever in the race so matured, though all the other characteristics of the species are continued: but why or wherefore nobody can tell.—Just so, and without meddling with any theory, I have only to relate, that during the whole time I was in Swaloal I seldom saw the sun, nor was it to be seen any where else in Armata throughout the diurnal sphere; their summers had entirely taken their leave, and gone over to the winter months, which were mild and delightful—Phœbus rejoicing in the sky till the return of spring, when he appeared, as I was told, with a P P C upon his disk.—I need hardly say, that the harvests suffered grievously by this inauspicious transition, but the artificial system of Swaloal went on just the same—Art every where supplied the place of nature, and even excelled her in her happiest days:—the tables of the wealthy were covered with a profusion of the choicest fruits, and a couple of hundred chickens were often seen upon a single

 board;

board; but whether brought up by fire or by incubation I did not venture to inquire; though I suppose that even a hen would have been laughed at *for being at home upon her nest.*

Disgusted with the preposterous scenes I have been describing, I now earnestly pressed Cathmor to exert all his influence for my introduction into domestic life, that I might by degrees acquire the language of Armata, and become acquainted with her unadulterated manners; as I could not believe that a people who had so preeminently risen to be a proud example to all nations in a highly civilized world, could have no discourse for one another, but that it was hot to suffocation, nor any means of forming societies, but by treading and trampling upon one another. My request was speedily granted; but I little thought at what price I was to purchase the pleasure I sighed for.

To give me the entré I asked for, Cathmor introduced me to the fair Morvina, his sister, whom

whom I had never seen but on the crowded staircases, the only situations in which she could be looked at with safety.—I shall not attempt to describe her.—It was now indeed beyond conjecture, that Milton must have been shipwrecked here, before he had his blindness to lament.—In no other region could the image of female beauty have suggested the description of our first woman, whose likeness, indeed, shone every where around me in Armata; and, without meaning any affront to Adam, seemed to be improved by some crossing in the breed.

Morvina had been taught our language by her grandfather and father, and spoke it in perfection; but though, from the first moment I saw her, I was overpowered by the charms of her person, yet I little feared any lasting impression, from a being so vain and so frivolous as of course I expected to find her.—How much I was deceived in her will appear hereafter.

CHAPTER V.

The Author is introduced into the private Societies of the Capital.

I WAS now invited to a private dinner of only twelve covers, and remained during the evening, with a party more numerous though select.—The company at both were persons of distinction, most of whom I recognised as having been in the mobs I had passed through, and from whom, on that account, I expected also but little that could amuse me;—but although much is lost when a foreigner can only collect what passes through interpretation, yet the conversation was most interesting and delightful.—Indeed, the WHOLE SCENE, in perfect good manners, in vivacity, and useful information, surpassed what I had ever seen in Europe, many parts of which I had visited in my youth; I can bring of course but a small part of it before the reader.

The conversation, as might be expected, took its

its rise, on their parts, from the extraordinary circumstance of seeing among them, as a familiar guest, the inhabitant of an unknown world; and on my part, in remarks upon customs so very unaccountable, and differing so entirely from our own. There was great restraint and difficulty in the outset, but Morvina, having undertaken the office of interpretess, I ventured, after a few glasses of excellent wine, to ask this question, which, from curiosity or politeness, seemed to engage very general attention:

" With the means and faculties for such pleasant and rational society as I am now enjoying, why, may I ask, are health and enjoyment sacrificed to tumultuous and unmeaning assemblies, which seem to form the grand business of all the rank and opulence of your great city?"

The fair interpretess, after having, no doubt, proposed my question, and conversed for some time with those who were to resolve it, now addressed me in English, nearly as follows:—

 " Although,

" Although, Sir, it may not always be easy to reconcile some particular customs, amongst the most civilized nations, with their general manners and character, yet I am charged to deliver our opinion, that they will be found, in most instances, to have had some reasonable beginnings, though, from change of circumstances, they may appear to strangers ridiculous, or even offensive.—The nobility, and those amongst us of consideration and respect, do not consist *now*, as in old times, of a very few persons elevated to rank by the personal choice of the sovereign, or from having attended his person in courts or in battle, but of many others, rising to eminence in the various ways by which superiority and distinction may be arrived at in a free country—by eloquence and knowledge of business in the superior councils of the state, or by ability and learning in the courts of justice—by great and splendid achievements in naval or military warfare, or having been engaged in useful and perilous service—by the great influence derived from the possession of great landed

landed property, when in the hands of considerable men who have preserved and added to their inheritances from their fathers, instead of dissipating them by negligence or excess, or by great *personal* fortunes acquired in trade, a source of wealth by no means to be held lightly in a nation which, without its commerce and manufactures, must instantly be overthrown.—There are others besides, who, though not falling within any of those classes, are justly distinguished by science or by the liberal arts, and many more by general good manners and talents for conversation, having visible means to take their places in cultivated and expensive life.—All these orders, when assembled together in our capital, are naturally drawn towards each other, and distinctions of any new kind, much more *exclusions*, would be invidious.—EQUALITY, *properly understood*, is an useful, ennobling principle, and nothing has more contributed to the stability of this ancient and powerful kingdom than the innumerable shades in which all her people are blended.—Our community

munity is like a changing coloured silk—the eye can perceive that there are different colours, but cannot distinctly trace where any one of them ends or another begins.—But this is not *all*—if the imperial sway of this small island were circumscribed, as in old times, by the sea which surrounds it, even all those multitudes might form one society without the crowds you complain of; but you have not considered, nor perhaps even know, the almost boundless extent of our dominion:—the remotest and most populous nations are our subjects—they all gravitate towards Armata—and, when brought within our vortex, a new gravitation commences, and our capital becomes the centre of attraction.—A society so widely extended must always have been rapidly increasing, and could not in the end be conveniently brought together—but greater inconvenience would attend separations.—Our numerous classes, long accustomed to associate with good humour and kindness, might view each other with malignity and envy—the bundle of arrows, an ancient emblem

blem of our nation, would be defaced, and the metropolis, where our duties compel us to congregate, instead of being perhaps too alluring, would become odious from defamation, contention and distrust.

" There are other advantages besides, to countervail defects so new to you.—Connexions formed *here* pervade the whole country, and the influence of the great and opulent, giving fashion to their inferiors, makes friends of many who otherwise might be jealous and adverse, binding them all together as it were by innumerable threads of silk, nothing in effect when single, but stronger than bars of iron when combined.—A state of society so accidental and anomalous must, after all, from the most obvious causes be imperfect—but it contributes, not a little to make the manners of our country what they are, and which we flatter ourselves are better than any other."

Although this defence of the follies I had witnessed

witnessed could from other lips have made no impression, yet it was delivered with so much grace that I felt myself for the moment almost convinced; and it was rather to hear again the sweet accents of Morvina, than from any hope of prevailing with so prejudiced an audience, that I asked her to make *this reply*:—

"To ALL that has been said I not only fully assent, but am delighted with the wise policy which unites the higher orders of your people, whose union connects the rest; and, if there were no better means of securing that friendly intercourse which you have so happily described, I should be the advocate of all I have condemned.—The worst vices are generated in solitude, and the safety of public morals may be perfectly reconciled with all the pleasures which the law allows in this great city.—It would be impious indeed to believe that God had given faculties to multiply our satisfactions, yet that his gifts were only for our temptation, and could not be enjoyed without sin:—but have

you

you not various public places of fashionable resort, whose rules are at your command, and which you might multiply without end, making them as select or general as what you call assemblies, though they cannot be convened?—It would be useful besides, for the encouragement of arts and manufactures, that such fine buildings should be erected in your city, and become rivals in taste and splendour; where dress might be seen in all its magnificence and beauty in all its lustre—where, unsubdued by unrespirable air, the worst of all oppressions, the mind as well as the body would be free, and amusements, whatever were their description, be enjoyed with comfort.—When I recommend such improvements *the women* surely must be on my side, for it is in *such scenes* that their most powerful impressions would be made; but NEVER, NEVER, in the haunts where even YOU, divine interpretess, could be seen without emotion—why then, but from the force of truth, should I have reviled the sanctuary that saved me?—Would to God I had never

left

left it! I scarcely know what I am saying—*but happily our language is to ourselves.*"

Morvina was very young and not prepared for this—she changed and re-changed colour; she *half* looked at me but withdrew her eyes, and *half* looked at me again.—She was the first woman I had seen so closely in this *other* world, and I found her to be like all our own. She was not at all offended—no woman is ever offended at being admired, nor ought to be—we are irresistibly drawn towards one another by unknown sympathies, but which, like other mysteries of nature, may perhaps one day or another be understood.

If the fair Morvina had been obliged *in the instant* to resume her interpretation, our embarrassment might have been observed, but her gay brother relieved us by interposing (as he thought) a fatal objection to public places as substitutes for the private mobs. "They might do well enough," he said, "once a fortnight, or even once a week,

a week, but that oftener they would become ☾3N☾" (which translated would signify BORES:) "and what, in the name of God, was to become of people *all the rest of the week?*—Were they to be shut up in their own houses by themselves?—This was a scheme quite impracticable, the affairs of many persons requiring insurances upon their lives, which could be done at no premium if such risques were to be run as being at home *alone.*"—I was thrown out at first by this remark, but I found afterwards that *suicide* was not often excepted in their policies on lives as by all of ours in England.—The whole objection, however, was soon replied to and put down by a very fine young woman, who said, "that though it might be difficult to answer the objection, she knew, personally, it had been carried too far, having been at home herself two nights following, only three years before, but that by taking a few nervous draughts and going to three balls every night for a fortnight afterwards, she got well in less than a month." *This was quite decisive,* and as I now saw that my

my opinion in favour of public places was beginning to gain ground, I desired Morvina to add for me, that we had them in the highest perfection in London, to the utter extinction of that itinerant mendicant dissipation, begging nightly at private houses for the smallest morsels of entertainment in every nook and corner of the town.

I was the friend, I said, of universal hospitality.—I wished to see in the spacious apartments of the great the most splendid festivals, and that even the most private houses should often resound with music, gaiety, and mirth.—I objected only to those cruel experiments on animal life in over-crowded parties, which, after all, could be out-done by the air-pumps of every chemist in the very same streets, but who, by the bye, would be disgraced by such practices even upon frogs or mice.

Here the discussion ended—

I was

I was the more surprized at this strange perversion of taste, and abandonment of all comfort, when I was afterwards introduced into their private societies, which were every where delightful.—I forbear to dwell upon them, lest I should seem to be casting into the shade even English accomplishments and beauty.—I shall content myself therefore with saying, that almost every woman I saw when drawn out from the confused masses where I had seen them before, or rather *not seen them*, appeared like the sun himself when emerged from clouds that had obscured him.—From the great care, even from infancy, of their hair, their teeth, their complexions, and their whole persons, beauty had almost ceased to be a distinction, and when I afterwards became acquainted with the language, I found them so amiable in their dispositions, and captivating in their manners, so delightful in conversation, so highly accomplished, so well instructed in all useful knowledge, and so domestic in the midst of allure-

ments all around them, that had my heart been disengaged, it must have been at a loss where to fix.—Most of them indeed when in youth, "*might have lain by an Emperor's side to com-*" "*mand him tasks.*"—And as to those who had passed that prime season, I found them also, upon acquaintance, to be just what the wisest of us in England would wish to see in the dearest of our kindred or our friends—I met with very few who were debauched in their principles, or disqualified by habits of dissipation for the offices of domestic life; they knew all that women ought to know; they spoke of the scenes they mixed in very much as I have done myself, and preserved, in the midst of them, the same moral feelings, the same affection for their families, and the same attention to their duties, that the simplest times ever knew.

It often brought to my mind the words of Solomon, most usefully corrective of a very general disposition to find fault with the age in which

which we live:—'Say not you that the former 'times were better than these, you have not 'considered wisely of this.'

Let me hope that this sincere and affectionate tribute to the women of Armata may induce them (when our worlds shall be open to each other hereafter) to forgive the ridicule I have cast, perhaps too freely, upon the prevailing fashions of the day.—My only object was to discountenance a system which destroys their health, cuts short the fleeting period of their beauty, conceals it from universal attraction, and alarms the prudent when admiration is ripening into love.

I was now introduced every where, and was confirmed in my opinion that their domestic society would have been perfect, if it could have been enjoyed undisturbed; but from feverish habits the most agreeable people were always running off to join the tumults of the night—It reminded me of our parties upon the

Thames, when after we are all comfortably seated and enjoying ourselves together, we are suddenly obliged to land again, whilst the boat is shooting London-bridge.—This only drawback to complete satisfaction would be at once removed by the substitution of public places, at reasonable intervals, for the endless and toilsome system I have described.

On making this remark to Morven, who was now again my companion, he said, he would carry me next day beyond the vortex which involved us; and after a drive through the park I have described and only half-a-mile beyond it, we arrived at a palace of singular architecture, the abode of distinguished men of old, but which had lost none of its lustre in its present possessor.—We passed through an antique gallery enriched with the learning of ages in a magnificent collection of books, and there was a calmness in the whole scene from the composing shadows cast all around us by the loftiest trees.—The noble host and hostess now received

us,

us, when the solemn character of the place on a sudden seemed to change and to smile upon us with the warm light of hospitality and kindness. —I was charmed, on further acquaintance, to see in the same man an assemblage of qualities very rarely united—universal knowledge with the simplicity of an infant's mind; the proudest public spirit with the gentlest complacency; and a vehement Fox-like public eloquence with the most uninterrupted playfulness and gaiety in private life.—The table, which was the same throughout the year, abounded with a rich and equal repast for mind and body, being the constant resort of the most eminent and accomplished persons. I was struck with the contrast of finding myself, upon the very margin of such an immense city, amidst dark groves and gay flowering shrubberies resounding with the wild notes of the thrush and blackbird, and the song of the nightingale amongst the rest, who though he followed the fashion in keeping late hours, very wisely spent them in the woods.

 I remained

I remained till it was near morning, and as the conversation became warm upon the interesting subject of Armatan freedom—I almost thought I heard the majestic commanding voice of Grey, enlightening our minds and compelling our conviction—the clear and nervous persuasion of Lansdowne—the dexterous pith and keen argumentative wit of Tierney—the comprehensive and splendid energy of Brougham—the pure and learned eloquence of Mackintosh—and all Scotland personified in the able, acute, powerful, unrelenting demand of Lauderdale upon our *well-earned* assent to what he said.—Nor can I thus call to mind a scene both as to time and place so distant, without reflecting upon *the Pleasures of Memory* and the delightful talents of the author.

When I afterwards visited the public places for conversation and dancing, all my objections to their mistaken notions of amusement were confirmed.—Some of them, by a well-regulated selection,

selection, embraced every advantage of private circles, and all the splendour of numerous assemblies; a system that if encouraged under the patronage of rank and opulence, which lead fashions in all countries, would soon extinguish the minor dissipations, and when improved by the erection of buildings in the highest perfection of architecture and sculpture, would become a great feature in the eyes of strangers visiting, like myself, this ancient and illustrious city.

In nations depending for their wealth and greatness upon arts and manufactures it is the grossest mistake to imagine that matters of this kind are indifferent—They are, on the contrary, of high importance. Folly only declaims against the luxuries of the wealthy, because it is too short-sighted to see that they relieve the necessities of the poor. Nothing impoverishes a people but what is taken, *without measure*, by governments from the common stock; all other expenses, wise or

unwise in the individuals, soon return to it, and are sources of universal wealth. If London, which God avert! should decline in after-ages, and be visited like Rome in her declension, I would rather that the remains should be seen of an immense edifice where the sons and daughters of England had rejoiced in the meridian of her glory, than the ruins of a disgusting Coliseum for the savage combats of wild beasts.

I cannot, perhaps, find a better place for illustrating the striking effects of public assemblies in apartments erected for the purpose, where every art is exerted to give splendour to the scene, than in what I saw at an entertainment of the Chief Magistrate of that great city.

We entered a magnificent hall, but which, instead of being lighted up, was in such a state of darkness that we could scarcely discern one another.—I was on the point of inquiring the cause of this, when in a second, and without a hand being stretched forth, I found myself in the

the centre of a transcendant blaze of light, brighter than if all the whales in the South Seas and Greenland had been melted down into oil and set fire to at my feet.—I am almost afraid to express the similitude it suggested, and the sensation it produced; though it cannot surely be prophane to feel the power of the Creator in the inventive faculties of his creatures—it exalted my mind to contemplate the astonishing effect of the divine word upon the universe throughout its boundless extent, when God said—LET THERE BE LIGHT, AND THERE WAS LIGHT.

Whether this grand discovery can be brought into all the uses of man, is what I had neither skill nor leisure to examine.

I was next shewn how well they knew what concerts ought to be.—Music of every description seemed to have reached perfection, and its characters were as various, as the nations of its authors were different. In the softer climates

it

it is soft and voluptuous, expressive, beyond description, of the passions, and the language of the people most happily accords with it. In other countries, where the inhabitants are more robust and intellectual, their music is correspondent, being animated and intensely vigorous, lifting the mind to Heaven when devotion is to be impressed, rousing it to battle when martial ardour is to be excited, and electrifying the whole frame of man by the endless measures of harmonious combination. Armata herself, though at the head of her world, was *here*, perhaps, not pre-eminent, but her wealth and her commanding station collected in her capital all vocal and instrumental talents, leaving other countries, comparatively, WITHOUT CHORD OR VOICE.

Being totally illiterate in music, though charmed by it even to rapture, I can say no more of it than that I sometimes imagined Handel himself to have been at the organ, with the Messiah spread out before him; and sometimes

times as if Mozart, and Haydn, and Paesiello having charmed the sentinels of another world, had come back again from the dead.

I could have wished their grand theatre had been less extensive, but as it was a mixed amusement of *spectacle*, conversation, and music, there was the advantage of meeting every body, without the probable disappointment of missing *the very people we might the most wish to see.*—Let this theatre therefore stand without rival or critic, or Lord Chamberlains, to disturb it; but let no apology be offered for the absurd magnitude of their playhouses, which I afterwards visited.

The first I went to was quite as large as our Covent Garden or Drury Lane, a very great defect.—I sat in that part of the house the most resembling our pit or front boxes, though the construction seemed to be different, and being placed as it were in the centre of vision, and looking

looking above, below, and all around me, I was delighted to see such an immense number of well-dressed happy people, of various classes and conditions; but all of them obvious parts of a well-adjusted harmonious WHOLE. There was no tumult or disorder, which I was told *almost* never took place but when something was radically wrong. As the play advanced, I became more sensible that the golden mean of magnitude had been trangressed in the formation of the house, because, though my imperfect acquaintance with the language rendered it difficult to take a just measure of such a defect, yet I was convinced that the more distant parts of the audience were often disappointed, by their repeated calls for that degree of silence which in an extensive theatre it is impossible to command.—The scenes were beautifully painted, equal in effect to our finest panoramas, the dresses rich and appropriate, and the performers, as far as I could form a judgment of their talents, were highly accomplished in their art, but

but there was the same manifest imperfection as in our theatres, which are much too large for the enjoyment of exquisite acting.

It is not sufficient that we can see distinctly the persons of our actors, or hear their voices, however clearly, when raised to their ordinary pitch—we ought to be near enough to mark the effect of the passions, even in the most fugitive changes of expression, which cannot possibly be within the reach of the bulk of a London audience.—If this is once felt by the most accomplished actor, if he cannot but observe that he falls short in extending the delicate touches of his art throughout so wide a circle, he inevitably acquires the habit of marking them more strikingly than Nature dictates, which totally destroys their effect—But this imperfection, when vision only becomes indistinct from distance, is much more destructive of fine acting if the most *inward voice of the actor* falls short of reaching the ear.—Almost all the finest parts of tragedy or comedy must be finished in

tones

tones so subdued, so transient, and so delicately expressive, that to extend the voice in them would annihilate the scene, and the very consciousness that its extension is necessary, disturbs and baulks the actor in the noblest exertions, and by sympathy, even in the most refined conceptions of his art. If this great error shall remain uncorrected, acting will not only be retrograde, but a taste so vicious will be created by it, that if in another age our Garrick, and Siddons, and Kemble, were to re-appear amongst us, their talents might be eclipsed by the mere *speaking trumpets* of the stage.

Another cause has long perhaps obstructed a more continued succession of superior actors, but, which, from the improved manners and genius of many of them, both dead and living, has been for some time insensibly wearing away—I mean the estimation in which the stage has been regarded. To secure for it a perpetual and still increasing lustre, the road should be open, as in other professions, to the most liberal consideration,

deration, though not to the highest distinctions—nothing else can invite its professors to learned and polished educations; without which, in the superior branches of acting, there can be no brilliant succession.—We might have *self-taught genius* even from the desert, but the ordinary soil of nature must be *highly dressed* to be eminently productive, and its culture must be encouraged by the prices of the harvest. This truth is constantly exemplified in the London theatres—we have many clowns and buffoons, and lower characters, most admirably represented, because, without at all undervaluing the talents such imitations call for, the most uneducated may excel in them, nay perhaps even excel the most; but, to fill the higher parts of tragedy, where the great, the wise, and the accomplished, have often to speak in the stately measure of sublime poetry, or, as in genteel comedy, in the language of the high and fashionable world, classical taste and high breeding are indispensable, and which no genius can imitate, because manners must be insensibly *worked* into the habit

habit by the same means that many have acquired them who have acquired nothing else; and because, although they are nothing when compared with more exalted qualifications, yet people of all descriptions must be conciliated in the language they have been accustomed to hear, and their feelings prepossessed by the same kind of address which wins them in ordinary life.

To bring the stage, therefore, in England, and indeed every where else, to its proper bearings, its professors must be cherished and respected.

Transcendant plays, though avowedly written for public exhibition, and which if confined to the closet would lose their highest lustre, are justly ranked amongst the noblest exertions of human genius; their authors when living have been objects of universal admiration, and their fame has become immortal;—why then should not actors, without whose aids they are comparatively

ratively nothing, be trained up in corresponding acquirements, and rewarded by similar applause?

As I had complained so much of neither seeing nor hearing as I wished, Morven, who was now again my companion, carried me the next day to an apartment near the stage where all these defects were removed.—I was presented to the proprietor, who said there were all kind of refreshments at my command; he was an old man of the most interesting aspect, and there was something in his manners far beyond fashion in the benignity of his whole deportment.—When the play was over, he said he would carry me to some favourite music at another theatre, where I found, to my surprize, the same accommodation; servants in waiting, and carriages to attend us to our houses, or wherever we chose to go: I accepted one of them, and, as we passed to a distant quarter, Morven said to me, "That extraordinary person, whose acquaintance you have just made, is one of the richest men in Armata, but differing from many others in

the whole character of his mind and temper.—How often do we see the most opulent, either improvidently wasting their fortunes, or sacrificing every satisfaction to increase them! and even in the absence of such insane propensities, how frequently do we find them entangled throughout their whole lives by senseless fashions and opinions, unconnected with either happiness or virtue, and dropping at last into their graves, weighed down by accumulated wealth, without having either enjoyed it themselves or administered it to the support of others!—Of all this he is the very reverse; though most intelligent in every branch of business, and most carefully precise in all its multiplied concerns, he is so entirely removed from all thought of them when with his family and his friends, that you could not possibly discover he had ever spent an hour in such pursuits, and his vast fortune rolls on more rapidly, whilst he is spreading it abroad with a liberal hand for all the uses which make its possession a blessing and a trust." It brought to my mind the true but singular saying of Solomon—

Solomon—'There is that scattereth yet in-
'creaseth; and there is that withholdeth more
'than enough, yet it tendeth to poverty.'

I thought I had now exhausted all the social satisfactions of this great city, when a new world suddenly burst upon me through my introduction to many philosophical and literary institutions, of some of which I was even admitted a member.—In science, they said, there were no aliens; and it was happily remarked in one of them, by a stranger from a distant country, that as many charitable foundations of the capital rejecting local qualifications, extended their benevolence to all who were in distress, so her philosophical bodies would be always ready to embrace the whole intellectual world. Nothing indeed ever interested me so highly as to see, *every where throughout Armata*, the vigorous and capacious mind of man, casting off all the fetters and entanglements which impede it in the search after truth, vindicating

the belief that we are formed after the image of God.

By her astronomers, I was brought to a nearer and astonishing view of the remotest planets, and her naturalists amused me with the curiosities of their own; tracing not only the families of all animals, but of plants, down to the grasses we tread upon, in the sexual intercourses of their tribes: whilst others again, with a skill which seemed more like magic than ordinary science, were exploring the hitherto latent characteristics of inanimate matter, till all the strata of their globe were laid out before me, and their structures as clearly explained as if they had been the work of human hands.

To examine the wonders which chemistry and mechanics had accomplished amongst them would almost demand the skill that gave them birth.—They had discovered a power I am quite unable to describe, which, though when left at large

large insensibly mixes itself with the air, and scarcely lifts a feather in its ascent, would, when imprisoned, unhinge a world for its freedom.—Over this subtle and almost omnipotent agent they had gained a complete dominion, and, by a limited and wisely adjusted compression, to give it a safe direction, had obtained a momentum for their most ponderous engines, which neither wind nor water, nor any combinations of matter could have produced.

May not politicians take a lesson from this? May they not learn from it that there is a restraint of liberty, which cannot safely be imposed; and that man must finally be free to the extent at least which Heaven has appointed for his happiness?—Like the constructors of those powerful engines, they may give health and vigour to their governments by the honest and judicious restraints of a liberal system of laws, but, if they transgress that just and necessary dominion, human nature, like the natural ele-

ments I have spoken of, will open a passage for itself till the invaded equilibrium is restored.

In all the other branches of knowledge I found this highly favoured island as eminently exalted; and, on looking into the best accounts of other countries, which were as nothing in the scale, I should have wondered at the phenomenon of her wisdom and greatness, were it not clear, that when Providence appoints a nation for extraordinary duties, she must be furnished with the means to fulfil them.—The lower world is left to the guidance of various instincts, which are sufficient for the parts to be sustained, and animals, from age to age, are therefore every where the same; but MAN has a nobler office, and is gifted according to the work which is in hand.—This was my clue to the biography of Armata—and I thought I saw, in a long and shadowy train before me, the martyrs to her pure religion—her patriots expiring on the scaffold and in the field for her laws and liberties—

liberties—her wise men deliberating in councils and courts of justice—her historians recording her virtues for universal example—her poets enshrining them in immortal numbers—and a host of heroes defending her against an envious world. Establishments of charity were numerous, but though admirable alike in their objects and administrations, I pass them by altogether as not within the scope of my remarks.—When the twin-worlds shall become as open hereafter as the continents of our own are to each other, every hospital in Armata will be as well known in London as St. Luke's or Bridewell, and I should be sorry to see the little pocket-books of the year made up by a piracy of my work :—I have selected therefore for my objects matters that are beyond their reach.

CHAPTER VI.

The Author's Remarks upon the Laws and Religion of Armata, and upon the Police of the Capital.

I now became anxious to be acquainted with the *general character* of the Armatan laws, which had acquired amongst strangers from all nations an unexampled reputation; and I had not long been engaged in this interesting inquiry, before I could see distinctly the cause of her progressive prosperity through so many ages, whilst other governments had been swept away in the storms of revolution. I deeply lament that my acquaintance with the language, though now amply sufficient for the common purposes of a traveller, was still too imperfect for the investigation of so difficult a subject; and that neither my education, nor the habits of my life in my own country, enabled me duly to comprehend the information I received from the most accomplished lawyers to whom I had the advantage of being introduced. I shall therefore be very short—all details indeed, had I been competent

competent to embrace them, would have been beside my purpose.

The legal constitution of Armata is of a most singular character; its principal maxims, and even its minutest forms, having come down from a high antiquity, and acquired from thence a claim to reverence and attachment which the wisest institutions very seldom obtain, when men have *seen* their beginnings and have known their authors however wise.—The more ancient of her laws are unequalled for their clearness and precision, an excellence which may have arisen from their having been in a manner conquered by her people from their oppressors, which made it necessary to secure indelibly the land-marks of popular independence; and the same state of society produced other characteristics of her jurisprudence, which remain to this hour, and promise to be immortal.

The necessity of the utmost clearness in the records of customs and in the language of statutes, inculcated a corresponding strictness in

in the judicial administration, so as, in *some instances*, even to produce injustice; an imperfection, however, not complained of by those who were capable of weighing the advantages by which such rare evils are counterbalanced. But no precision in the records of customs nor in the enactments of statutes, though maintained in judicial administration by a corresponding strictness, could have secured the liberties of Armata, without the GRAND PECULIARITY THAT HER LAWS ARE ADMINISTERED BY HER PEOPLE.—The rigid adherence to this popular jurisdiction, together with its correct limitation, are most striking instances of wisdom; as it was to be feared that when this *only security* had been adopted against the abuses of fixed magistracy it might have been carried too far, and that neither property nor liberty could have been supported, when there was no fixed depositary of the rules which maintained them.

It requires the precision of a lawyer to handle this subject, and I am almost afraid to touch it, though the principle seems to be simple.

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The rules which govern property of every description through all its transmissions, and which prescribe the forms of legal remedies when it is invaded, cannot be left to the unsettled judgments of the most enlightened people, without bringing the utmost uncertainty upon all inheritances and titles.—*These* must always be the subjects of written codes, or recorded decisions, which learning alone can treasure up and apply.—The rights of individuals also, and their vindications when violated, must upon the same principles *be positively defined;* else no man could know what were his privileges, or in what manner to assert them. The people of Armata, from the very earliest times, were as well aware of this indispensable division between fact and law, as geographers are of the line by which they divide the hemispheres of our globe, and although invested, in many cases, with the power of deciding upon both, they uniformly respected the rules which referred the law to judicial determination, and the Judges possess all the authorities for protecting their legal jurisdictions.

Crimes,

Crimes, in the same manner, must be defined by positive laws, or known through ancient customs which, by the force of decisions, have become equally positive; as otherwise no man could know what course he might justly pursue, or deliver himself from any snares which might be spread in his path. In this most important branch of jurisprudence, the good sense of the Armatan nation may be said to be summed up.

To the definition of crimes, whether created by a written code or evidenced by the records of antiquity, they adhered with the most scrupulous strictness; they suffered no ambiguities to prevail, and when their own security was more emphatically at stake, in the enactments of treasons against the state, there was even a curiosity in their precision; stung with the utmost jealousy of fixed magistrates, though it was impossible with wisdom to abrogate or abridge their authorities, they repeatedly recast those tremendous statutes, reprobating their extension by constructive judgments, and always bringing them back, *with the recorded disgrace*

disgrace of their invaders, to the very words which had been misunderstood or overborne.

But though the definitions of crimes are as much the province of judicial learning as the rules which govern property, and all civil rights, yet the Armatans were always alive to the clear and vital distinction between civil and criminal justice.—What is a crime is a question of LAW; but *whether committed or not* must always be a question of *fact*, which they would never trust to any decision but *their own*, nor permit any plea or answer to be addressed either in form or substance but to *themselves*.—They were, from the most ancient times, therefore, an integral part of the courts; more independent indeed than the highest judges, whose decisions might be reviewed by superior tribunals, *but no tribunal could ever touch an acquitting sentence by the equals of the accused.*

This had been the life's-blood of public freedom through all ages, yet a few years had only passed since

since it was running out like water in Armata, and she was dying without attending to her complaint.—Her Judges, following one another, had, it seems, settled, as they called it, by a series of decisions, that *writings* forming an anomaly in criminal proceedings, were to be left to *their* censureship, and that it was for *them alone to decide*, even when no rights of individuals were affected, in what language the opinions of mankind *upon every possible subject* was to be expressed; assuming to themselves the sole judgment of *intention* whilst they shut themselves up from all testimony by which alone it could, in many cases, be ascertained.—This blind and presumptuous pretension was not only a palpable violation of the ancient law through which every popular jurisdiction might in turn have been argued away, but gave to the fixed magistrates, appointed by the crown, the power of controuling the press, which is but another name for AN ABSOLUTE DOMINION OVER THE PEOPLE.

The conflicts to resist this usurpation were obstinate

obstinate and protracted, but *common sense* prevailed in the end, and sophistical *nonsense* was overthrown.

I wondered much when I heard this strange history, but I have wondered *much less* since I came home; because I never can admit that Armata has more public spirit or wisdom than England, yet what at this moment is our own condition, though we are in complete, unquestioned possession of the privilege just spoken of, and which for a season only she had lost?—The subject is so clear that I enter upon it without apprehension; though I declare, *upon my honour*, that I should have known nothing of the law, nor ever even thought of it, if I had not left my own country and visited the nation I have been describing.

The Libel Act of Mr. Fox withdrew a long-exercised jurisdiction over the qualities of writings upon general subjects, even from our most exalted judges, not because their justice and independence were then particularly suspected, but because

because it appeared to parliament, that it *never had been; nor reasonably could be*, any part of the judicial office, to judge on subjects as lawyers where the law could give them no possible rule to go by, or to exercise a boundless and dangerous dominion over the free thoughts and opinions of mankind, when no individual complained that his character had been invaded.

One would have thought it must have been held to be a mere corollary to such a proposition, that a jurisdiction thus taken from the superior judges *could not remain with the inferior magistrates, even if it had been vested in them before;* and that it never could have been thought just, nor in England practicable, to stimulate the most unlettered justices, without the aid of legal advisers, to act, perhaps beyond the dictates of their own opinions upon questions which no court in England, without the concurrence of a jury, could decide.—One would have thought that upon any sound construction of this modern statute, whatever might have been the practice of former times, a jurisdiction

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to arrest before indictment found, must have been virtually abrogated, or, at all events, that the people of England would not have been *more than ever* subjected to arbitrary imprisonments by the lower magistrates appointed and removable by the crown, after it had been declared by Parliament that it was not safe to confide a jurisdiction over libel, even to superior and independent judges, as an abstract question of law.—It may be safely admitted, that there may be many libels so clearly mischievous as to require no judicial discretion; but what can that have to do with an universal jurisdiction over every thing that is written, whatever it may be?

In all other criminal cases within the power of justices to arrest before indictment, the definitions of the crimes imputed are legal questions, which a magistrate may therefore examine, and which are generally of a plain and simple character; but *what is a libel*, is not now matter of *law*, nor even *a fact* which any tribunal but a jury is competent to decide.—This must have

been the opinion of Parliament, when by the Statute of the 48th of the King, they gave to the justices of the King's Bench *and to them only*, a power to issue warrants after information filed in that court, and such must be the opinion of every man living, lawyer or no lawyer, who has read the speech of Earl Grey in the House of Lords, which, *even as it is published*, may range with the most invincible arguments ever delivered from the bench or at the bar, and his opponents may well say with Æschines in doing justice to Demosthenes—*What would you have said if you had* HEARD *him!*

This power, nevertheless, still remains in England, and probably will for some time continue: but common sense, and the spirit of English freedom, will, in the end, be triumphant.

I ought not, however, to conclude this abstract consideration of fixed magistracy without a just homage to the judges of Armata.—I found, from all inquiries, that they were remarkable, like our own, for their integrity and learning;

learning; that the administration of the law was held in the highest reverence, and that no instance had occurred in modern times of any corrupt departure from their duties.—Their independence had exalted the sacred character of their office, and had secured the confidence of the public.—I was presented to the whole bench, and found them as familiarly pleasant in private life as they were dignified in their tribunals of justice.

I make no apology for this long digression—I could not possibly alter the world I was cast on, nor depart with truth from what I saw in it; but wherever the occasion offered, I have applied it throughout, to the illustration of my own country, or for the reformation of what appeared to be errors and defects.—*This* (as the Preface has spoken for me) has been the only object of my work, and where I may be mistaken my *motive* should protect me.

I have the rather enlarged upon this momentous

mentous subject because it is so dangerously misunderstood.—They who hold high the popular institutions of the country are supposed of late to be adverse to the monarchy, whereas they are its *only* supporters:—*a revolution*, and of a very different character from the last, might be the probable consequence of any attempt to bear down THE TRIAL BY JURY OR THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS; and whilst they remain undisturbed, and in full action, the multitude so unjustly suspected will not only be obedient, but government itself may be often saved from the fatal consequences of ignorant misrule. What spectacle indeed can be more sublime than to see a blind system of jealous and arbitrary dominion carried on through the profligate and corrupting agency of spies in every part of the kingdom, receive as it were a DEATH-BLOW from twelve honest men, indifferently chosen out of the undistinguished mass of our people!

Another striking feature in the criminal law of

of Armata is, that the power of accusation, in the highest offences, is vested also in a popular tribunal, which, in ancient practice, extended to inferior offences; but summary jurisdictions had for a long time been undermining this great security against oppression.—The creation of an immense revenue, and the powers necessary for its collection, had introduced a new system, which, extending by analogy and custom to many collateral cases, had greatly altered the condition of the Armatan people.—Their *exclusive* dominion over the greatest offences remained inviolate, but they were subject *in too many instances* to the jurisdiction of the lower magistrates, without appeal *for the facts to their equals, or to their superior judges for the law.*

This is an evil which in its beginning ought to have been zealously opposed.—When new conditions of society arise in any country, the objects of justice cannot but multiply, and many changes in ancient systems must necessarily follow; but the utmost caution should be

used to depart as little as possible from the principles which gave them birth, because they are the sources of obedience and contentment.—I thought I saw throughout Armata strong symptoms that this salutary precaution had been overlooked.

Nothing indeed is more painful than to observe the inevitable difficulties and dangers attendant on the most perfect institutions, when cases accumulate, which demand new rules, and when the decisions upon the old ones are rapidly increasing—the science of jurisprudence then becomes abstrusely complicated, and the law, instead of being any longer a plain and simple rule of action for the *people*, becomes too difficult even for the *judges* to comprehend.—Expense, delay, and uncertainty, cannot but follow in proportion, till the courts, which should be looked up to as *sanctuaries*, are beheld only with a salutary *fear*.

I cannot perhaps better describe the extent

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to which their decisions and statutes had multiplied, than by relating an anecdote which, though it diverted me as a stranger, ought to be matter of painful consideration in Armata both for government and people.

Being much delighted, as I could not but be, with an outline of the law, so beautifully simple, I expressed to my learned conductor the strongest desire to see the BOOK in which their decisions and statutes were compiled and registered for public instruction and the administration of justice.—He smiled *very significantly*, saying he would carry me to where my curiosity should be indulged, and, in a few minutes afterwards, we arrived at a house, from whence I expected to carry home, under my arm, *the volume* I had been promised:—it was one of the great libraries of the country, being the property of a nobleman, in whose family books had been accumulating for centuries, and who preserved them in the utmost regularity and order.

We were shewn into a spacious apartment, handsomely fitted up and provided with ladders, such as are common in England, for reaching their highest orders.—I was greatly struck with the immense number of volumes, in the view of which, however, my learned conductor interrupted me, by saying, that, as our time was limited, we must not waste it in one part of the library, as it was divided into different chambers, in which the books were classed according to their subjects.—I was surprized at this, and told him, that though England was more famous for literature of every character and description than any nation of our world, yet I had conceived the hall we were leaving contained the whole collection. "The whole collection!" he re-echoed with the utmost seeming amazement—"why, my dear stranger, they are only his LAW-BOOKS." "What do you mean?" I answered, with equal surprize on my part, as the reader may well believe—"WHAT LAW-BOOKS? Have you communications then with the planets and fixed stars, and made a digest of all their institutions?"

institutions?" "Oh, no," he said, "they are only books of very *local* jurisdiction—*they are our own laws only.*—Those on your right hand," pointing as far as we could see, "are our *decisions*—and those on your left are our *statutes.*" I stood silent for a while, and then broke out with an astonishment I could not conceal—"If this be really so, how are your people to know by what rules they are to govern themselves, what duties they are to perform, or how to avoid the penalties annexed to disobedience?" "Nothing so easy," replied my learned conductor; "Nothing in either of our worlds so perfectly plain and simple," laying his hand, at the same time, on what seemed to correspond with some of the indexes in our own books—"what shall I find for you?—I will turn to it in a second."—"Turn then," I said, "to your law for preventing infection from the plague."—For I had been told they had regulations for quarantine. "Here it is," said the Armatan counsellor, as he read *the title;* but he had not proceeded ten lines in the enacting part when

when we found it principally related to the smuggling of chew-chum, a leaf resembling our tobacco. "Oh," said he, on my laughing at the discordancy, "this is a mere mistake, depend upon it, some misprinting—let me turn to another." "Well then," I said, "find me the law which regulates your marriages;" which he turned up accordingly in a moment, and read its title with an air of triumph; but he had not read far, when we found it mostly related to *horned cattle*—he was now rather disconcerted, when I laughed, and said to him, "Oh, this can only be a misprinting—try something else—let me see the act which regulates the functions of your bishops and clergy." "That I can do," he replied; "it is now," he said, "before you," as he read the *title*; but there was little in the *body* of it, except as to passing women with child of bastards to their proper parishes, as we at least should call them. It was now my turn to triumph, and I could not help exclaiming, "You have found it, at last, have you?—your women I hope don't swear

swear their bastards to your bishops and clergy? I will now positively give you but one chance more, and you must find me at once something consistent, or I will go back again to England and send over Lord Stanhope to thump you"—Alas! I little thought how soon he was to be lost to ourselves!

He now turned, by my desire, and as his last effort, to an act against bribery and corruption, the *title* of which he was not long in finding, but so little was the concordance of the *enactment* that, on the contrary, it only continued and secured the constitutions of their *rotten boroughs.*

As he went on, referring to the decisions of their courts, he was frequently in the same manner most sorely puzzled —Sometimes he found a case *settled*, and told me it was *undoubted law;* but on looking farther, he often informed me that it had been afterwards settled *the other* way, and in a subsequent volume, which he

turned

turned to, he frequently discovered that the *last* decision was clogged with *exceptions* which supported *neither*, but that, by still looking onward, he could shew me how it was settled at last;—he accordingly found some of his cases, but they had many times stood over for another argument, *and had never been decided.*

In this way he went on, until he was driven in the end to admit, that if a young man were to begin to read all the books of their laws, written and unwritten, public and private, on his first entering their courts, he would be superannuated before he got through them.

I confess I retired from this scene severely mortified, because no words can convey an idea of the extreme wisdom of their whole constitution; and I cannot here help imploring the parliament of my own country to guard against this worst of evils, before it reaches, as in Armata, to such a dreadful extent, that TIME ALONE, without either errors or abuses, must destroy

destroy all the simplicity of our venerable constitution.

I am aware it must be a MASTER'S HAND that touches such a string.—It would be most difficult to make a dictionary of final decisions, abrogating all those upon which they were founded; because it would cast into the shade the history and progress of the law which preserves and consecrates its character; yet I still think that means might be found, by the aid of Parliament, to simplify its practice, leaving the ancient books as the fountains of more modern judgments, which, like statutes, might give the rule until repealed.

In carrying such a system into effect, the *language* of decisions ought of course, *not even in a letter*, to be touched, as it would be the parent of new litigations; but *the decisions themselves* might be sanctioned, so as to prevent all resort to others more ancient, shut out by the

the adoption of those that might be selected as law.

I am not prepared to say that such a plan is *safely practicable*, but the proper question for the legislature ought to be, *Is it absolutely impracticable and impossible?* because, when such *increasing and ruinous mischiefs* are in the other scale, every effort ought to be made to suppress them.

My own opinion is, *that though mighty difficulties are in the way*, the attempt, *in some mode or other*, under the sanction of the judges, ought to be made; and my confidence in the result is founded upon the immense care and learning which distinguish the modern decisions of our courts; and because almost all the subjects which the laws have to deal with, not only come round again in a very few years, but in a country which has reached its summit would be less likely to fluctuate, than when it was progressive,

gressive, as in former times.—Why then might not the best materials in our later reports, though not established as conclusive, be held by the profession to be the order of the day, and all other arguments be excluded or abridged? —I am informed indeed by eminent lawyers, that *absolute necessity* is working this effect, but some *authorised system* is still wanting to give it continuity and force.

I need hardly conclude by saying that the judgments to be thus selected, must be such *as are beyond all question*, and which could not be reversed or shaken without bringing confusion upon the law.

For the reasons I have already adverted to, it would be most difficult and dangerous to recast our statute law, or even to simplify and condense it by enactments, because no care in their language could prevent disputes upon their constructions, whilst those that were abrogated had finally received them in the courts.—Perhaps, therefore,

therefore, the utmost that can be safely accomplished, is most carefully to class and digest our written laws, but without alterations, and to discourage as much as possible that *rage for legislation* which an eminent advocate, now dead, used to consider as an increasing disease, saying—"*that no man in his time could sleep in his bed without tinkering at some act of parliament.*"*—Yet here again the same question ought to be put to the legislature, and be patiently and anxiously considered—Is it *certainly impracticable* to go farther with *safety*, in our escape from the gulph that is hourly widening to swallow us up?

On examining the civil branch of Armatan jurisprudence, I was equally impressed with the

* From all accounts of this excellent and interesting person, I deeply lament that I did not know him.—He was universally beloved in the profession of the law, and I cannot give a stronger instance of it than that I have seen a bag which he gave many years ago to a young barrister, for whom he had a great friendship, who literally wore it to rags in the courts, and whom I once heard say, that he would not sell even the tattered remnant of it for five hundred pounds.

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strong intellectual powers of this highly gifted race of men, and in nothing more than in the dexterous mode of liberalising their decisions, by the equitable aids of a *distinct court*, a thing utterly unknown in any other country of their world.

I have already observed, that the jurisdictions and forms of their tribunals were derived from the most ancient customs; that their whole law was remarkable for its precision; and that the liberty and property of the nation were deeply involved in the preservation of that stubborn strictness.—It is obvious that such a code could not be safely engrafted on.—It might have been hazardous in the extreme to obliterate the very characteristic of so admirable a system, by making it necessary for judges to supply, by constructive judgments, any defects which appeared in the application of very ancient rules to the complicated concerns of a great empire, extending, or rather originating an enriching commerce, which gives an infinite variety to the

transactions of mankind.—The necessity of such constructions, by unsettling the principles and practice of the law, might not only have affected the security of property, but what would have been far worse, might have sapped the very foundations of public freedom, by extending their influence to the administration of criminal justice.

When equitable considerations, therefore, became indispensable, even beyond the natural equity comprehended in the most positive laws, it was fit that they should be confided to a separate tribunal; and this new system, like the old one, to which it came in aid, was not enacted by any statutes, but grew up in the very teeth of them, and for a season even of the legislature itself; forcing, or rather stealing its way, until it settled at last in the very station where it was wise it should remain; becoming an useful auxiliary, equally precise and certain as that whose precision it preserved.—There is an analogy, perhaps, between the elements of the natural

natural and civil world—There is a point where the *first* are absolutely at rest, and the *second* as nearly so as the condition of human affairs will admit.

I was most curious to arrive at some understanding of the principles which governed this extraordinary court; but I might have long remained without a clue to it, but for a small book, not much larger than a Court Kalendar, the work, as I was told, of a most learned man, which gave me all the heads of it in a manner so brief and yet so luminous, that I shall translate them into English, that the people of England may feel the duty of perpetually watching over all their inestimable institutions, to prevent their becoming useless, and even mischievous, by a departure from their original designs.

The jurisdiction of this high court, according to the great authority above alluded to, became necessary :—

1st, When the principles of the law by which the ordinary courts were guided gave a right, but where their powers *(for the reasons I have adverted to)* were not sufficient to afford a complete remedy.

2dly, Where the courts of ordinary jurisdiction were made instruments of injustice.

3dly, Where they gave *no right*, but where, upon the principles of universal justice, the interference of the judicial power became necessary to prevent a wrong, when positive law was silent.

4thly, To remove impediments to the fair decision of a question in other courts.

5thly, To provide for the safety of property in dispute, pending a litigation in the ordinary courts.

6thly,

6thly, To prevent the assertion of doubtful rights in a manner which might be productive of irreparable injury.

7thly, To prevent injury to a third person by the doubtful title of others.

8thly, To put a bound to vexatious and oppressive litigation.

9thly, To compel a discovery, which was beyond the customary powers of other courts.

10thly, To preserve testimony.

These short and simple outlines were afterwards, even in this small volume, so clearly, yet so amply filled up, that I was told by the most eminent lawyers that none of the *proper* objects of this court's jurisdiction were omitted, and that a man of sound understanding, who had acquired a legal apprehension by ordinary study

and practice, could hardly miss his way in their application.

I cannot perhaps better illustrate those separate jurisdictions, than by selecting an instance of one of the highest of them, to vindicate the principle which seemed almost to govern them all.—Having carefully read the little book, and having found that there existed a power in this high forum to prevent a man from proceeding in a court of law, if it could be shewn that he contemplated injustice, and even to make him abandon the fruit of the most unimpeachable judgment, if obtained through fraud, I asked how such an interference could be necessary; as in both cases the lower courts themselves might do equal justice—in the *first*, by repelling the fraud contemplated, by its own decisions; and in the *second*, by reversing its own judgment, if its justice had been surprized; and that, in both instances, the same evidence which would warrant the interference of an equitable tribunal, ought equally to defeat the action in a court of law;

law; but the answer I received convinced me I was mistaken, as such a course would be destructive of all the certainty I had so much admired: The frauds might be of a character which the courts, in other times, had not embraced in their recorded proceedings, and the judges must either have made new laws by their judgments, instead of administering the old ones, or have abandoned the principles of justice; and the cases might not be such as to have admitted, *even in future*, of practicable corrections by statutes.—In the same manner, the reversal of decisions, by the very tribunals which had pronounced them, must have led to endless dissatisfactions and appeals. In pursuing this enlightened jurisdiction through all its parts, as far as an unlettered stranger could comprehend it, I found it to be justified throughout.—I was filled with admiration of the wisdom which had reared it up, and was convinced that, but for an accident which I hasten to relate, the civil jurisdictions of Armata would have been as perfect as her criminal law.

The ancient rules which governed the tenures of lands, and the forms of asserting inheritances, were most curiously precise, and all conveyances of property were equally remarkable for their brevity and clearness; evidenced besides by the public delivery of possession which always attended them; but the singular and fatal occurrence, which I have just promised an account of, wrought a total and sudden change in this simple and venerable system.—The clergy, who, in the infancy of letters, were by far the most learned amongst the people, had been long availing themselves of the superstitions of darker times, to draw to themselves the possession of the richest domains in various parts of the country, and, to give secrecy to such transactions, (as they were all prohibited,) public conveyances were not taken from the dupes of their hypocrisy, who only bound themselves to permit the use and enjoyment to belong to those religious bodies; but the heads of them contrived to seat themselves in this high court, where they compelled the execution by their own decrees,

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though they were not only void of all legal solemnity, but were in contempt of positive law.

This dangerous system of fraud was carried at last to such a height, that the great council of Armata resolved to put an end to it; and the manner they set about its destruction was just what might have been expected from the *sagacity and shrewdness* so visible in all their institutions.—They said by a statute, *in a few plain words*, that whoever had the *use* of land should be taken to be the legal proprietor, and having before prohibited the clergy from receiving conveyances, no other path was open to them: *without the use* they had *nothing;* and the use now becoming the land itself, they could no longer hold it—*thus the foxes' holes were completely earthed up.* Now comes the extraordinary matter—which, as I could hardly myself believe when I heard it, I am almost afraid to be a suitor for belief from others; I can only promise to relate what I was told, though I cannot be confident I understood it.—

When

When the above-mentioned foxes came to their holes, and found the trick that had been played upon them, they fell upon this notable contrivance.—If pious A. possessed of land, had *now* given to clerical B. the use of it; such *use* could no longer have been available, because the *use* having, by the *new law*, become the *land itself*, clerical B. could not hold it; to avoid this awkward consequence, they settled that the clerical fox, who was to enjoy the land, should go down one step in the alphabet and become C. and that pious A. should find some nominal B., or any son of a B., to give the use to, which of course made this B., or this son of a B., *the legal proprietor*, but who, it was settled in this court, was only to hold it to the use of the same fox, *now clerical C.*

When this most manifest and impudent shuffle was brought before the judges of Armata, it was of course expected that an instant end would have been put to it; because the very object of the new law being that whoever had

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the use and enjoyment of land, should be held to be *the legal owner*, it must be evident not merely to a lawyer, but to any shoe-black in an English alley, that if instead of sending down clerical B. to be clerical C. he had run the gauntlet through twenty alphabets, the use still pursuing him and becoming always the land itself, he could not possibly hold it. But the Judges of Armata, though profoundly learned in their general administration, unluckily thought otherwise, and pronounced that clerical C. had a good title, inasmuch as they could not go beyond B. who had the first use, nor carry on farther the end and object of the statute, by adjudging that the second use was still the land itself as much as if it had been the first. I can no otherwise account for this astonishing judgment except by what we frequently observe in one of the wisest and bravest of animals, who will in general advance against a cannon, yet who, in one of our lanes such as in Kensington or Knightsbridge, with nothing but shrubs and flowers all around him, will suddenly stand stock still,

still, startled at something or other, but without either himself or his rider knowing what the devil it can be.—In such conjunctures there is no remedy but the spur, which is, however, by no means a sure one, as riders have been thrown. —Now this is no simile, but the very case itself: Not a peg would the judges move, and the great council being some how afraid to spur them, their judgment was neither reversed in the supreme tribunal, nor a new law passed to follow on the use through all its windings, so as still to make it the land itself. The consequence requires no lawyer's skill to point out.— The evil intended to be beat down continued, and the jurisdiction of the courts of law over the landed territory of Armata was at an end for ever. From that period, almost all the estates throughout that great country were conveyed to second uses upon the ingenious model of clerical C. which even after the clergy had no longer any interest in the contrivances, remained the almost universal mode of settling property—the legal proprietor in the land being

being nothing more than a chair in a country dance, the interest vesting in another, *subject only to the jurisdiction of the court I have described.*

The effects of this *unexampled revolution* were most disastrous.—Instead of the short and simple deeds of ancient times, with the clear and cheap evidence of public possession, a new system of conveyancing arose, which has ever since involved titles to land in the most expensive and perplexing intricacies, no man in Armata not a lawyer having the least guess at the tenure of his estate, and even a large class of lawyers themselves existing upon their controversies with each other, which, with the most honest disposition to finish them, become darker the more they are brought to light—the venerable judges of the law having no more jurisdiction over them than the keeper of the wild beasts at the Tower has a right, ex officio, to sit in parliament, or as a privy counsellor to the King.

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On conversing with the most learned men, I found that this strange emancipation of real property from the dominion of the ancient courts to this more modern tribunal, was not merely a change of one jurisdiction for another of the same character, but as entire an alteration of the whole system of the law as could possibly exist in countries the most remotely separated, depriving the subject of the most valuable part of the legal constitution; the forms of this court excluding oral testimony, and requiring that not only the pleadings and answers of the parties, but all the facts, however numerous the witnesses or however voluminous their testimony, should be reduced into writing, at an expense quite ruinous, and creating a delay destructive of the ends of justice.

I found moreover, that this dominion over land and over personal contracts so connected with it as to be quite inseparable, was in itself more than sufficient to occupy the whole time of any single judge, or even of twelve if they sat separately,

rately, and that its equitable aid to the other courts, which was its *real and admirable* province in the legal constitution, was completely overshadowed and almost swallowed up by this ill-omened jurisdiction.—Unskilled indeed as I was in such subjects, I could see most plainly that if the powers of this high court, as they are marked out in the masterly sketch before the reader, could have been made its *sole jurisdiction, constantly applied to assist the other courts, as must have been originally intended;* and if, as far as facts were concerned, the practice could have been assimilated to that of their other courts, by the admission of parole evidence, the justice of Armata would have been PERFECT.

But this unprincipled jurisdiction over landed property, wholly unconnected with its equitable office, was not the only obstruction which I found that the most indefatigable judge of this high court had to contend with.—Many other jurisdictions, never dreamed of in former times but which had arisen out of new conditions of society,

society, were heaped without measure or mercy upon his devoted head.—Whenever, indeed, any new subject of judicature started up, no matter from whence it came or to what it properly belonged, and for which the legislature was at fault for a forum, it was sure to be cast upon the heap—Like Milton's Limbo of Vanity, every thing that went wrong in the world was sure to be found here; and to swell the confusion, lunatics, mendicants, and bankrupts, even all the children of the kingdom were perpetually dancing around him—and as if all this was not sufficient occupation, it was found out besides that he ought to be placed as a legislative president in the highest council, where after having had his mind and body worn down by his judicial functions, he was compelled to sit and listen to all that the most unexhausted had to say.—I had a curiosity to see this great magistrate, and thought it no small one to see that he was *alive*.—He was a most able and agreeable man; by all accounts deeply learned in every branch of the law, trem-

tremblingly alive to the justice of decision, and most unwearied in the discharge of his multiplied and momentous trusts.—I asked him how he could possibly exist in such a scene as I have described: he laughed and said to me, "You may go and ask the first salamander you meet, how he lives in the *fire?* I have been *here all my life.*"

I found that this great Court had another Judge who sat separately, a person of great learning and eloquence, and that on account of the evils I have been describing, they had lately recourse to another; but, for my own part, I could see enough to be quite sure that if as many more were added to them as there are Martello towers upon our coast of Sussex, it would be just such a reform in judicature, as the others were in war.—The delays are inseparable from that *Babel* of jurisdictions I have described, and from a system of conveyancing, commencing, as the reader must have seen, in fraud and rapacity, but which, being afterwards sanctioned

by general practice, became almost the common assurance of that realm, and from its very nature the parent of expenses to an intolerable extent—all persons who can in any way be affected in their property or interests must invariably be made parties to any proceedings in this court, because its decrees are universally conclusive, and of course if any of them die, the suit may be said to die along with them; so that in cases of great value, where there are often many complainants, and great numbers impleaded, the cause is perhaps laid out a corpse once a month, until after a decent time for interment, at which the Commissioners of Stamps, like our undertakers, are sure to be constant attendants—the heirs or other representatives succeed to the defunct upon the record—and if their sheep were not as prolific and as short-lived as our own, it would be impossible to find a succession of parchment for their records. It is no wonder, therefore, that complaints are often loudly heard, and many have reason to complain, but *never of the Judges*, and very seldom of the professors

professors of the law:—As well indeed might a traveller in our York waggon complain of the driver for not overtaking the mail;—but it appeared, from all my inquiries, that it was much too easy, *without proper securities*, to institute complaints in this court—The Romans punished their criminals by throwing them over the Tarpeian rock, but the punishment was in the hands of the *magistrates*, whereas *any man* in Armata may throw his neighbour over this tower of Babel, which differs only from the Roman precipice in this, that the victim seldom reaches the bottom.

I shall conclude the subject by a curious specimen of Armatan conveyancing, which I literally was witness to myself, and to which indeed I was a party, before its mysteries were known to me.

As I was sitting at dinner with Morven and a large company, a coach suddenly drove up to the door, when the person it belonged to

coming up to me with great seeming satisfaction said—" I am delighted to have found you at last, as I am borrowing money upon my estate, and could not have touched a mite if I had missed you." I was almost struck dumb with astonishment, and could not guess what he meant, until he told me I was the legal proprietor of his whole estate, and that I must therefore convey it to the lender of the money. —" Good God, Sir," I answered, " you must mistake me for some other person, as I do not remember ever to have seen you in my life."— " Oh yes, you have," said Morven, " he dined with you at my house soon after you were shipwrecked, and I remember he then said, it would be a pleasant thing to make such a use of so extraordinary a stranger."—I was now, of course, obliged to say, that under Morven's guidance I was at his command, though I could not comprehend what was intended.—The coach was now emptied out, when I signed my name, I believe twenty times, upon different writings, which of course I could not read, and then made

made my bow to him, heartily glad to get away; but Morven stopped me by saying, that I must wait until the boot was unloaded, as the deeds disposed of had all been in the body of the coach, and I was detained above half an hour longer.—I found afterwards, upon inquiry, that I stood in the place of nominal B. and was proprietor in law to this troublesome man's use.

There is yet another evil which visits, or rather overwhelms, all their jurisdictions, though it bears the heaviest when landed property is in question, but it extends to the proceedings of all courts, and to almost all the transactions of mankind.—Upon every *page* of their voluminous mass of records, and evidence, and process, which if set fire to in Armata, though but a speck upon that planet, might not only be seen from our earth, but perhaps be viewed with alarm as a comet by all worlds—Yes—upon every *page* of all this accumulation of writing, there must be a miniature impression of their King; without which no suitor can be heard,

nor a syllable of testimony be read before the Judge; and they sometimes exceed the value of the subjects in contest, which are abandoned, of course, to any knave who may be in possession—They are not political contrivances to excite awe and reverence for the Sovereign, but have been resorted to for revenue, and threaten in the end to destroy all the benefits of courts of justice.

I never was more affected than when I saw the virtue and wisdom of so many ages thus shamefully overthrown by the mad profusion of spendthrift governments in very modern times. I had thought it worth all the perils I had encountered, to be present in their ordinary courts; I had visited them almost daily, and it was more like enchantment than the imperfect condition of human affairs, to witness the dispatch and unerring justice with which the most complicated concerns were disentangled and decided; but after this sad communication, their tribunals appeared to me like painted sepulchres.—I found that little was left for the suitors

suitors who succeeded, and the unsuccessful were often undone, nay, sometimes all of them together, and the lawyers whom they employed—of which I saw a most notable instance in the prison of the principal court, which I was carried as a curiosity to see.

In passing through the rooms of the prisoners, we observed four persons who were playing at cards together, when my conductor, who was still the same eminent advocate, desired me to stop and observe them—"That first," he said, (pointing to the man nearest us,) "is an honest baker with a large family, who brought a suit against his partner at the table, to recover about twenty pounds of your money for bread that he had sold him; but for which the other, who is a carpenter, could not pay, having a large family also, and his taxes to government in arrear, for which his little effects had been sold. —The baker prevailed in his suit, but the pictures of the sovereign, and the expenses of the proceeding, *beyond what he could charge to*

his opponent, would have left him but little to receive, even if the carpenter could have paid; but receiving nothing at all, he took him to prison for the debt, which was swelled by the expenses to more than double the sum.—But the poor baker, thus receiving nothing from his prisoner, and not being able to pay his attorney for the proceedings and *the portraits*, he was sued himself, and was soon taken to prison also, and the plaintiff and defendant now sit opposite.—But the attorney was just in the same condition as his client, whom he had sued; as, by getting nothing from the baker, he was unable to pay for the portraits which the paper-merchant had sold him, and he was sued and carried to prison himself, where he met with the gentleman who is now *his* partner, viz. the attorney for the carpenter, he having been sued for *the portraits* also, which he had bought for the carpenter's defence—and being cast into the same prison *the gaoler has got the whole covey.*—They have not amongst them all the smallest coin in circulation, yet they are as eager at their

their game as if the fate of the universe was at stake on every card; and they pay one another with slips of paper, which they pleasantly enough call exchequer bills, as they are to be paid only by similar slips of paper when they become due."—I never witnessed such a scene.—It was inhuman to laugh as I did, but it would have been more than human to resist.—I wish that high councils of state, when a quarrel is engendering between nations, and peace or war are in the balance, would a little more consider the consequences before the die is cast; as nothing short of invasion and conquest can inflict upon a nation so severe an evil as a devouring taxation, which fastens upon all the springs of life.—But no revenue should ever approach the sanctuaries of justice, to drive their votaries into dungeons, whilst luxury can shew herself in the streets.

When from this pressure of taxation, and the entanglements of forms too technical and expensive, the law had ceased to be a plain and simple remedy

remedy for the recovery of debts, the administration of justice, *from no faults of its own*, became unpopular, and many reformers started up. Temporary expedients were first resorted to—The public councils frequently throwing open the gates of the prisons throughout the whole country; but such acts of necessity produced as many sufferings as they redressed;—they could reach only those who were in custody when they passed, but could take no account of many more who were subject to imprisonment by the insolvency of their debtors who were set free, and thus the ruined creditors of redeemed prisoners soon took their places, without any hope of redemption, until the intervals between such statutes had passed away.—This was a system of manifest injustice; yet such is the danger of meddling with old establishments, however imperfect, that although many able and benevolent statesmen clubbed all their talents for its reformation, their new law, even in its infancy, is more destructive of credit, and more injurious to both debtors and creditors

ors than the old one which they undertook to reform.

The principle was to substitute a cession of property for the imprisonment of debtors; but the creditor, before he can enforce it, must establish his debt in the superior courts, by the same dilatory process, and under all the pressure of revenue, as if he were still to have the ultimate fruit of it under the ancient judgments and executions.—He may now, as formerly, deprive any person of his liberty whom he chuses to call his debtor, even before he is possessed of any judicial confirmation of his demand; yet he has no sooner obtained judgment against him, by a tedious suit, and at an expense in many cases beyond the amount of the debt, than the prison doors fly open, and the debtor, as if the proof of the debt entitled him to freedom from the consequences, has now only to offer what he has, or to say that he has nothing; and thus, after all the cost and delay of a solemn process, the creditor

ditor who sued him has only an equal claim with others *who were at no expense at all*, and even with collusive claimants, set up by the debtor, to cover such property as could not with safety be concealed.—Surely such a system is not merely defective, but is a dangerous nuisance.

If the cession of property be adopted as a general rule, it should not be left to the option of the *debtor only*, at the conclusion of a regular suit, but the *creditor* ought to have his election also *from the beginning*, and by the same *summary forms* as the debtor may resort to *in the end*, but this could not have been accomplished without throwing the whole jurisdiction over contracts into the hands of inferior magistrates, to the very extinction of our ancient courts of law, which would be exposed even to an insulting reproof, by having their immemorial jurisdictions swept away.—Upon the whole, therefore, the practice of imprisonment for debt had far better been reformed and modified, without rashly subverting our legal constitution, which

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it is too much the fashion to boast of yet to condemn.—The cession of property may be a wise and beneficial system, if applied with speedy and costless ceremonies to the insolvencies of the *commercial* world, where property is *large* and *tangible*, but when extended to the very lowest orders of the people, whose effects *can rarely be followed*, it holds out a dangerous temptation to fraud, and strikes at the very foundation of credit, by destroying all the securities of trust.

I had now been so long engaged in the examination of the laws of Armata, and so much pleased with my companions of the profession, who were most eminent and incorruptible persons, highly esteemed for their general learning and talents, that I almost resolved to think no more of our world, and to become an advocate in their courts.—They were highly diverted and pleased with my project, but suggested to me that their language was not easy—an objection however which I answered by observing, that

that Scotchmen flocked daily into London, and became intelligible by degrees.—To cut the matter short, I had set my mind, at last, upon the plan, and which was only defeated by a conspiracy against me of the most extraordinary description—Many witnesses having started up, and declared themselves ready to prove that I had practised there many years, *and for some reason or other had been expelled from the bar.*—I was astonished at this attempt, but what could be done to resist it? they were persons whose credit I had no means of impeaching, and I could prove no *alibi* without witnesses from the earth.

I consulted their great chief justice, who wished much to help me, but said he could give me no relief—and that he would tell me the reason the first time he saw me, which he soon afterwards did—*but the conversation was private.*

I now proceeded to examine the police of this immense

immense city, in which there were many imperfections, but in my opinion often referable to a population which no magistracy could duly superintend, and to houses of entertainment for the lower orders multiplied beyond the calls of necessity, and too much cherished on account of the revenue they produced.—No vigilance could repress all the disorders they created, nor protect the moral character of the people, the debasement of which, in many instances, was frightful.—Thefts and robberies were almost of nightly occurrence, and so far was there from being any prospect of safety by sweeping away the gangs of old and hardened offenders, that *juvenile delinquency* maintained *a more depraved succession.*—THOUSANDS of *boys*, from the vices of parents, neglect of education, and want of employment, were to be found in the streets, the associates of professed thieves, and of girls subsisting by prostitution, frequenting houses of the most infamous description, where they concealed and divided their plunder.

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I was the more attentive to those abuses, because LONDON itself is not free from them, and they cannot be removed but by striking at *their roots*.—The system of licenses to publicans should be totally changed, and the partialities with which they have been granted done away. —CHARACTER, *most respectably and cautiously certified*, ought to be the only qualification; severe punishment should attend irregularities and disorders, and no ESTABLISHED VICTUALLER *should be deprived of his license upon any pretence whatsoever, without trial by a jury*, instead of being, as heretofore, at the will of the justices of the peace; none of whom besides should license any houses of their own, nor be seen upon the bench when the titles to them are discussed.—I have a great respect for the magistrates of our country, and for none more than many of them in the metropolis—but no one ought to be placed in a situation which exposes him even to suspicion, nor sit in judgment when he has the remotest interest in the decision.

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If all those provisions were enacted and duly executed, there would be fewer offences, because their shelters would be destroyed.—Publicans so selected and encouraged by the security of their possessions, whilst they acted with honesty and discretion, would become a kind of lower magistrates, and be sureties for the peace of the city.

Mendicity also, from the same causes, had become a shameful nuisance in Swaloal.—In the most populous cities of Europe, it is only disgusting from the wretchedness of the supplicants, but HERE compassion was constantly abused, and blunted by the most atrocious impostures.—A sovereignty of beggars had been long established with the most regular authorities, and the streets throughout all that wide extent, which we call the Bills of Mortality, were assigned for the walks of the pretended paupers, many of which had become inheritances, and had descended through several generations.—The following instance of long-

practised iniquity I considered it my ill fortune to detect: because, though it is a high duty to the public to expose such evils, yet their exposure bears heavily upon many innocent people, and steels our hearts against the most genuine objects of compassion.

The charity of the fair Morvina was proverbial, and our doors had long been surrounded by the poor of every description.—There was an old man who peculiarly interested us, being one hundred and three years of age, confirmed by a certificate which seemed to be as old as himself; the writing being much torn, and the seal imperfect.—We were constantly attended also by a woman, who had lost her eyes from lightning, which were covered with black patches of silk, and by a man, her companion, who from palsy had lost the use of both his legs, and was drawn on a kind of sledge through the streets.—There was, from time to time, besides, another wretched woman with six little children, and near delivery of a seventh; all these paupers, and many more,

more, were almost daily relieved and fed, until an accident occurred for our deliverance.—To state it in almost a word, my watch was stolen and found upon one of them, who, to save himself from the gallows, informed me *privately* that we were the victims of imposition, and that if I would disguise myself, he would carry me to where I might see the real condition of those on whom pity had been thrown away.

I was pleased with the scheme, and having secured myself from discovery, he accompanied me at the time appointed to a public breakfast of the fraternity, before they dressed for their rounds.

On entering the room I could not help thinking that my repentant conductor, as he described himself, had some new fraud in agitation, since I saw nothing that could give me the least expectation of meeting the wretches we had so long supported—The company were seated round a long table, where neither

disease nor old age were to be seen, but on the contrary, above twenty well-dressed, healthy, happy people, regaling themselves with the best fare, and pledging one another in their cups; on the ringing of a bell their president told them to deliver in their accounts, and to assume their different characters for the day—the audit was soon over, and after they had been gone about a quarter of an hour, I saw all of them return, *and every one of my friends amongst the rest*—They were exactly the same as I had always seen them, and their real characters and descriptions were as follows—The old man of 103 had not seen 30, he had been a drummer in a regiment, and was just returned from transportation before his time.*—The woman who had lost her eyes, which were now covered again with patches, my conductor had shewn me in the room, where instead of their being obscured by lightning, they flashed lightning in every glance.

* The Armatans transport their felons, as we do, to a very distant region.

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—She was a beautiful creature, not more than seventeen years of age, and hired for the purpose by the gang.—The paralytic patient, whose sledge stood in the passage, was cutting his capers in the way to it, as indeed he very well might, having been a rope-dancer at one of the smaller theatres, from which he had lately been discharged, on his being discovered picking a pocket behind the scenes—The pregnant lady was among the last, as her pillow had not been carefully adjusted, and she had to pay the mothers of the six children who were going out with her, as they always attended to receive the ready money for the day.

My *felonious* friend now made me a signal to be gone, as my disguise, he said, might perhaps be discovered, which would not only be ruinous to him but might be dangerous to myself.

For the evils I had witnessed, to some extent and in some shape or other, there is, perhaps, no remedy in a large city, and we ought not to

suffer the knowledge of their existence, *though highly useful,* to make us cold to the sufferings of our fellow-creatures.—We may often be mistaken in the true objects of charity, but if from the impression of imposture, a real one should be passed by, *how fatal might be the mistake!* In times like the present, we should suspend the very remembrance of it, and go forth into the streets to take our chance of being deceived.

Before I leave the subject of human sufferings, I must shock the feelings of the reader by taking notice of a most barbarous custom in Armata, wholly inconsistent with the benevolent character of her people.

Although their mechanical inventions had reached such perfection that almost nothing was left for human hands to perform without aids to assist labour and to avert dangers, yet they persisted in devoting the unprotected children of the poor to misery, disease, and death, by a practice, not yet reformed amongst ourselves,

selves, of cleansing their fire-places by climbing boys instead of by machines; frequently goading them on by sharp instruments applied to the soles of their feet, when to escape suffocation they have halted in their ascent.

I frequently and loudly remonstrated against this horrible cruelty, and on being told, *with indifference*, of the forms of their houses which made machinery difficult, though it had failed in nothing else, *I lost all patience*.—"Talk not to me (I said) of the antiquity of your houses, or of their unsuitableness for the performance of your duty to God and your fellow-creatures. —If you will not alter them in your capital, where the abuses are so afflicting, HEAVEN may reform your manners as in ancient times the vices of nations have been rebuked;—Earthquake, which has hitherto been confined to other countries, may be let loose to tumble them on your heads."

To Englishmen also let me lift up my voice:—

" You have raised an immortal monument of fame and glory by the abolition of the Slave Trade throughout the world, and will you suffer a worse slavery to debase even your own children, whose colour, if colour indeed can be a degradation, was not given by Heaven but by yourselves?"*

The religions of new countries having always been considered by travellers as interesting objects of curiosity, I shall now make a few short remarks upon the Armatan church.

I found they had a Revelation as we have—Simple and eloquent, bearing throughout the stamp of divine truth, communicating, like our own, a fallen condition and a mediatorial redemption.—It is published by authority, and circulated as the universal source of faith and morals. Their forms of prayer are solemn and

* *I have just heard with great satisfaction, that whatever may be the construction of houses in Armata, our own throughout all England will admit machinery.*

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impressive, composed in former times by the most eloquent fathers of her communion, and established by law to give uniformity to public worship. The dignified clergy were distinguished for their piety and learning, setting an useful example to inferior pastors, which was *generally* though not always followed.

Their Articles of Belief are also published to give a distinct character to their national establishment, which might otherwise be corrupted and degraded by ignorant or designing men.—They were drawn up with great wisdom and moderation in very difficult times, but at some more favourable period they should have been re-considered.—The utmost care ought to be employed in the composition of such a sacred code; and the doctrines it comprehends should be divested of all that is dark and mysterious. Not that such doctrines ought therefore to be rejected when supported by the authority of Scripture, but they should rather be maintained in preaching *than rigidly insisted upon as tests.*

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I cannot perhaps better illustrate this interesting subject, than by giving the reader a short account of a conversation I had with an eminent member of their communion; most virtuous in his life, and devoted to the practice of every good work.—He deeply lamented the growth of what we call *Sectaries*, and dwelt with great anxiety upon the unhappy state of his country, predicting at no very distant period the utter extinction of the church. —Clear as, he said, were the Articles of her religious faith, they had by no means been universally accepted, and that, although those who rejected them were not only excluded from the priesthood but from many civil offices and distinctions, yet they still persevered in their own opinions, and were corrupting the world by their unbeliefs.—*The great bulk of the Articles* would, he admitted, have been accepted, but that *some of them*, though standing upon divine authority, were wickedly rejected; a heresy the more detestable, as their sacred writings were not only circulated by authority for

for public instruction, but by the charity of many pious persons were now universally read.

I here interrupted to observe, that I did not altogether comprehend him.—" How," I asked, " can your people be thus invited by public law to study a book of which they are told that GOD himself is the author, yet be expected to receive its interpretation from MAN, and be charged moreover with wickedness for having an honest opinion of their own; I do not at all object to your national church for adopting and adhering to the most approved doctrines, but upon what principle of policy do you exclude men from your ministry, much more from any office in the state on account only of different impressions of the divine nature, or of the hopes and expectations of mankind, as they faithfully believe them to be derived from the word of God, so given to them, without comment, by both church and state, which concur in such exclusions?—I must suppose that the professed beliefs of such persons thus shut out from your com-

communion are either so manifestly erroneous as to carry with them the evidence of fraud and irreligion, or that they involve political tenets which might endanger the establishments of your country."

"I am not prepared," (said the aged and reverend pastor,) "to make either of such charges upon those who are yet properly excluded from our sanctuary, and even from some of our civil functions.—The times have undoubtedly passed away since disaffection to our government can be justly imputed to them; neither can I go the length of saying that their beliefs, or rather their unbeliefs, ought to be considered as proofs of irreligion or fraud; but can any church receive communicants who do not accept her communications, or admit ministers who deny her creeds?"—"*That*," I answered, "no man of common sense can require, but why in matters *not absolutely essential to faith or morals*, and of *most obscure and doubtful import*, do you not leave men to them-

themselves?—Why do you hold up *mysteries* to *others* as tests of acceptation which you do not even agree upon among *yourselves?* and if you dread such immaterial differences of opinion, why do you embalm bodies of men by laws and statutes, which otherwise might disperse and perish?"

"We complain of their *perverseness*," replied the good old man, "which ought surely to have a mark set upon it, though of a gentle character.—To give you one instance, among many others, of their obstinacy and blindness, what do you say to their refusing even to attest their belief in all things *visible or invisible?*" I acknowledged that this was certainly *most provoking;* though, perhaps, its *generality* might alarm tender consciences.—If they doubted indeed the existence of God because invisible, I should condemn and reject them, since the Deity could not be visible to mortal sight, but ALL THINGS," I said, "was rather a *startling proposition.*" "Not at all," said the good old man,

man, " when in the mouth of the church that pronounces it, as it can *then* only mean *all things which the Church believes.*" — " And pray, Sir," said I, " what are they?"—He here looked at his watch, saying, that at another time he would converse with me farther, but that he was engaged to go out.—Suspecting, however, (though I am persuaded without foundation,) that he was rather puzzled and wished to evade the question, I said I waved it for the present as it might run into length, and that I wished only to revert to the absurdity of circulating the Scripture without comment, yet insisting upon their own interpretation.— " We have found that to be an error," he replied, " and are now beginning to correct it by notes and commentaries of our own."

" *That* you may undoubtedly do," I rejoined with warmth, " as learned commentators, *leaving other men also to their own expositions;* but if you were to do this in England, *upon the footing of authority,* we should tax you with relapsing

relapsing into the very errors of the catholic church, by beating up for proselytes to your own establishment, instead of publishing the pure word of God as proceeding, through inspiration, from himself.—This was the damnable usurpation of the papacy in the world I came from, and after having shed our blood for its extinction, we should hardly submit to it again.—*Any man*, with us, may write what notes upon the Bible he pleases, but *no man, nor the state itself*, can put upon it any fetters of the law."

The old man made no reply to this, and I rather thought he was ashamed of what he had said.

I found after all when the differences came to be sifted between the Armatan church and *many, at least*, who had ranged themselves under various establishments of dissent, that they had arisen, *for the most part, from the adoption of mysteries as inexorable articles of faith*, instead of softening them by expressions that,

that, without departing from the best interpretations of Scripture, might give a fair latitude to conscientious men, who, whilst they reverenced the Established Church and in general embraced its doctrines, could not honestly swear to an implicit belief in matters so deep that the human mind could not fathom them.

The excellent old man seemed to feel the force of this, yet such is the dominion of prejudice over the most enlightened understandings, that he made only this reply—" We have done every thing to open our arms to all christians who would subscribe our Articles—We have held out *in one hand* large ecclesiastical preferments, and mortifying exclusions *in the other*, yet the *former* have been rejected and the *latter* patiently endured.—I ought however to do justice to numbers who have consented to become priests *with benefices*, by swearing in the end to what before they had utterly denied."—He raised his voice at the conclusion of this sentence as if an irresistible demonstration had been

been wound up; and so indeed there had, because the proof was irresistible that his church had shut her doors against the highest proofs of religious sincerity, and thrown them open to self-interest and falsehood.

I did not chuse, however, to mortify him by this declaration, but contented myself with repeating my admission that every national church was fully justified in publishing its own creeds, and that such professions should, in *a religious sense*, be considered as the national faith, but not so as to touch the consciences of men by exclusions of any description for differing only as to *mysteries*, the truth of which no church could perfectly know, and which were immaterial if they could be known.—"How far," I said, "are we distant from that beautiful bridge, which promises to be as immortal as the victory it has recorded?"—"Above a mile," he answered, "but I cannot comprehend the meaning of your question."—"Then I will tell you," I answered, "in a word."

"*Some* of the mysteries which you insist upon, and make the parents of a widely-spreading dissent, are so immaterial *to the essential truth and character of divine revelation*, that perhaps, on that very account, they are covered as with a veil from the presumptuous mind of man; and so little do I seek to remove it, that if an angel were now standing upon the centre arch of the bridge I point to, I would not walk through the rain that is falling, to know from him which opinion concerning them was best, so as I knew that God had through redemption received me, and *in any manner* had enlightened me with his holy spirit.—It is most fit, nevertheless, that your Scriptures should in those points be examined, and that the best expositions should be supported and illustrated by your church, but they should neither be made proscriptive articles of belief, nor subjects of contention amongst mankind.—Her establishment, as you have described it, is entitled to reverence for its purity and wisdom, and if all her ministers would only preach their own evangelical

gelical doctrines, one half of the chapels that within a few years have started up and outnumbered your steeples, would probably tumble down of themselves, and as she has not half room enough for her own congregations, she might then build even cathedrals from their ruins, and bring back into her bosom dissenters of all descriptions, who now threaten to swallow her up."

I intended this advice to be private, and that it should never travel, from thence into our own world, though the gossip of a traveller has revealed it; because, though I sincerely honour the Church of England, and hold by her doctrines, as the purest, and the best, yet I wish that our national religion, as well as our civil state, should be balanced by a popular constitution, and that the free spirit of the dissenters should continue.

Absurd, enthusiastic ardour ought to be exposed and discountenanced, because it brings

religion into contempt, *but it consists with my own knowledge* that many persons in England, of the purest lives, and of the most exalted wisdom and virtue, have been reproached or sneered at as *Methodists,* only for maintaining and believing the very same doctrines which OUR SAVIOUR preached when upon the earth.

CHAP-

CHAPTER VII.

The Author resolves to leave Armata, and to return to the Earth—He prepares for his Voyage, regains the connecting Channel, and passes it in safety, but is afterwards wrecked on the Coast of Ireland, and proceeds from thence to London.

THE enjoyments of this great and delightful city were now drawing to a close.—I had been long passionately attached to Morvina, though I have not troubled the reader with the progress of my passion.—Her accomplishments and beauty absorbed every thought, but, alas! they were suddenly embittered by the dreadful communication of her father, that, though he had not betrothed, nor had she engaged herself to any of the illustrious suitors who were pursuing her, yet that I must not think of impeding her advancement in the world by my attentions, which, he said, had been observed.—What could I answer to this, or how could I complain?—Let the reader indeed only figure to himself a man dropping down upon our surface, an alien

not only to our country, but to our world, disputing the prize of the finest woman in London, and asking her father's preference, however much he might be his friend—Need I add that my own thoughts rebuked me?—I felt all I owed to the noble-minded Morven, but my honour forbad me to promise what it might not enable me to perform.—I saw Morvina almost at the moment, to whom he had given similar commands, and who, *for the same reason*, had *silently received them*.

I shall not attempt to affect the reader with a *tender story*.—All people who are in love are so very much the same, that it may be one reason why the general run of novels so strongly resemble one another.—It is a most difficult kind of composition.—There is but one Tom Jones, one Guy Mannering, and *Landlords* are more apt to distress us for their *rents*, than to delight us with such *tales* as only one of them I ever heard of had to tell.—Yet were I not restrained by the fear of failure, I might be tempted

tempted to work up into a scene of deep interest our desperate plan of an elopement from one world to another; for no less an adventure our mutual passion had the instant daring to project, and I had secretly engaged an adventurous navigator to run the hazard of our exploit,—but worse evils than parental rejection lurked behind: She was obliged to continue the race of dissipation on the high road to a settlement of her father's choice, instead of calmly retiring with the object of her own; and the race, alas! was a short one—At an assembly, such as I have but too faithfully described, the dancers becoming breathless, in a small and crowded apartment, all the windows were thrown open, and the air rushing in upon her delicate frame, now more susceptible from anxiety and agitation, she was seized with a violent fever which, in a very few days, proved fatal to all our hopes.—I now revealed to Morven our unhappy secret, and as all expectations on this side the grave were extinguished, his friendship and compassion admitted my visits even to the last moment of

life, when fainting in my arms her angel form seemed to grow lighter and lighter, and to escape from me with her dying breath—But surely, wherever our lots may be cast hereafter, the souls of those who loved as we did can never be divided.

I was now resolved that nothing should prevent my immediate attempt to return to the earth.—I collected all my nautical observations, and Morven having tendered me his purse to any extent, I continued the engagement which I had secretly begun, and prepared for my voyage, doubtful and dangerous as it was.—The passage, I found, would in its beginning be circuitous, requiring only a coaster's skill, until my vessel should reach the open sea; I put her therefore under the care of her owner, and accepted the offer of my beloved friend to accompany me himself to the more distant shore, where I might commit myself at once to the only Pilot that could then shape the course I was to pursue—the Divine Providence which had

had watched over me with so many signal deliverances from the beginning of my adventurous life.

My ship now left the port, and in four days the accounts having reached us that she was anchored at the appointed place, we set out immediately to join her.

On our arrival next day I learned from Morven, that the King was then at a palace near the sea, and that it was fit I should be presented before I sailed. I had indeed, and with deep regret, gone through the same ceremony on taking leave of a Prince, the very pattern of hospitality and kindness, who from my first landing had received me as a frequent and familiar guest.—His consort was a foreign Princess, the daughter of a King, and all the kings of the earth, from her high qualifications, might be proud of such an illustration of royal birth.

I was now presented to the Sovereign, whom I found

I found singularly graceful and accomplished—he had been bred in the general world, the best school for princes, as for other men.—Fame also with her trumpet was sounding, almost at the same moment, the approach of another generation of his royal house, and Morven, as if he had been read in Shakspeare, said he thought he saw the Genius of Armata holding up a glass "*which shewed him many more.*"

I was received most graciously, and need not say how highly gratified I returned from a scene so interesting and so new.—I should like, indeed, to see how people would stare, and to hear what they would say, IF THE MAN IN THE MOON were to be presented at St. James's or Carlton House—Yet what better was I in *Armata*, than that honourable gentleman would be *here;* who, though the inhabitant of a long known and domestic planet, has never yet advanced to a higher distinction amongst us, than to have his portrait swinging upon a sign-post, as a notice that ale is to be sold.

Though

Though I have never been a courtier, I have not suppressed the poetical flight of Morven respecting the Genius of Armata, because it is not useless in a monarchy like our own to separate a kind-hearted interest in our native princes from the *indiscriminate* support of any ministers they may employ;—the *first*, when honestly kept within the limits of duty to the people, gives dignity and security to the state;—the *second*, (too often a blind, unprincipled following,) is a pernicious homage, degrading to the individuals, and destructive to the constitution of our country.—A firm adherence to political principles, and to the friendships they create among public men, is a great antidote to corruption in parliament.—I honour those who support ministers from such considerations, as much as those who may oppose them, but the ranks are always swelled by those who range themselves under no standard but that which is planted BY THE MINISTER OF THE DAY.

My

My observation is *general*, and points *to no particular statesmen, nor to any parties.*

My vessel now lay within a mile from the shore, fully equipped for my adventurous voyage, and ready with her sails all loose to receive me.—I fell into the arms of my generous deliverer, embracing him with tears of gratitude and affection, and my boat being upon the strand, I was very soon on board.—The wind was fair, and when the night closed in upon us, heaven seemed to smile upon my undertaking with all her multitude of stars—the polar constellation bidding me as it were depend upon it for my course, as much as if I had been on the earth.—I knew indeed I was secure; as even a million of miles on the one side or the other, could not in the smallest degree affect its bearings upon any of our planets so inconceivably distant.—They have a kind of magnet in Armata, but I knew it not.—I looked up only to those other worlds to conduct me to my own.

We reached in a few days the tranquil ocean, and I marked well the peculiar birds and the sportive fishes which seemed to welcome me on my return.—The sea now becoming strongly agitated, though the wind even slackened, I thought that the connecting channel must be near, and my hopes were not disappointed; but the entrance was so tremendous as we approached it, that my courage almost forsook me. —It was as black as Hell, and the sounds which re-echoed between the rocks were hideous and distracting.—My crew (*though Armatan sailors*) were for a moment discomfited by this scene of horror, but I reminded them that God was in the whirlwind as in the zephyr, and a song and a dram soon settled all their fears.—As we were sucked deeper into the channel the water became less convulsed, and in a few hours, the current becoming uniformly smooth, and running with the same velocity as in my voyage outward, I knew to a certainty we were in the returning course, and took my measures accordingly.—As nothing could now occur during the months

which

which must elapse before the gulph could be cleared which divided our worlds, I ordered up our dead lights, lashed the helm a-midships, furled every sail, and, encouraging my crew by the most hospitable indulgence, we lived as jollily as if we had been on shore.—Our sea stock of every kind was abundant, and I had no more fears for the result of my voyage, than if my cargo had been coals on a voyage from Newcastle to London.—There were no dangers to encounter at the other aperture of the current, and the remainder of the passage was over our own seas.

The longest day will have an end—we emerged from the channel after a transit of *nearly* the same period as outward, having been three calendar months, four days, and seven hours in its rapid tide and under its sable shadow.—We now pursued our course without any unusual incident till we made the coast of Ireland, when a sudden storm arose which I tremble to think of, and shall not attempt to describe.—The winds,

or

or rather all the elements combined, blew directly upon the shore; at midnight we were embayed, and before the day dawned, a brighter and an eternal day rose, I trust, upon my brave and hapless companions; as the vessel having taken the ground and overset above two cables' length from the shore, EVERY SOUL OF THEM PERISHED.—I jumped overboard myself the moment she struck, and being a dexterous swimmer, which gave me confidence amidst waves that seemed contending with the clouds, I was dashed to and fro till I felt something strike against my breast.—It was a spar from the vessel, and clinging to it I was saved.

The coast was thinly inhabited, or rather almost a desert; but a few honest and kind-hearted people came down to the beach in the morning and comforted me in their little cabins near the sea.—They seemed much surprized at the floating fragments of the vessel, as, though the structure of it was demolished, the timbers, they

they said, were quite different from any they had ever seen. It was not long before we were visited by a neighbouring magistrate, with several people from the higher country, who set about the construction of a raft to preserve, if possible, some remains of so curious a wreck; but the wind coming off the land, and, as is often the case in such tempests, blowing with equal fury, every attempt to save even an atom of her was in vain.

After a few hours rest I thanked the good people for their kindness to me, and when they had dried my clothes by a peat fire, and given me a glass of some very strong spirit, I set out on foot, and meeting every where with the most friendly, hospitable reception from the brave and honest sons of St. Patrick, I arrived safe at Dublin, where, finding credit for a few pounds with a merchant who had formerly known me, I crossed the channel in a vessel bound for the Thames, and, having some acquaintances at Black-

Blackheath, I arrived there on the 17th of October, and on the 19th in London, where I have continued ever since, but am now in daily expectation of receiving my dispatches for a voyage with a commercial fleet.

THE END.

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